

Hafa Adai!

OAG: Settlement Fund, not CNMI acting in bad faith. **PAGE 3**
Kiribati cuts ties with Taiwan, presaging switch to China. **PAGE 9**

75¢

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IN SURVEY OF CHAMBER MEMBERS

70% to close temporarily

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The CNMI could be facing a mass exodus of valuable foreign workers as the Sept. 30, 2019 deadline to submit CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program applications inches closer and only 1,485 worker extensions have so far been received by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

RELATED NEWS

■ Sablan: USCIS accepts 1,485 CW extensions. **PAGE 2**

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce noted that 70% of the 34 respondents reliant on CW-1 workers will have to close down operations temporarily should an exodus happen at the start of fiscal year 2020 this Oct. 1, 2019. The Chamber noted that

» **Major construction disruptions noted in survey results**

Transitional Worker program applications inches closer and only 1,485 worker extensions have so far been received by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

rarily should an exodus happen at the start of fiscal year 2020 this Oct. 1, 2019.

See 70% on Page 4

'CWs vital to tourism industry'

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

With only six days remaining until most CNMI-Only Transitional Worker permits expire, the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors expressed great concerns as these workers play an important role to the islands' tourism industry.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said that the service industry is human resource reliant and that if the CNMI loses these workers, it would have a heavy impact on the CNMI economy.

"If we do not have the people to properly service our

See CW on Page 4



COME OUT AND PLAY

IVA MAURIN

School children get to exercise and play at the Mental Health Fairs going around the schools on the island to promote mental health awareness.

See story on Page 5

Public told to be cautious when traveling to Guam

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

CNMI residents have been advised to take precautions when traveling to Guam after the U.S. territory reported a total of 10 dengue fever cases as of last Sept. 21.

The Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services have reported a total of seven locally contracted cases of the dengue fever and have been increasing surveillance efforts in order to get rid of the possibility of

See PUBLIC on Page 4

Settlement Fund urged to take higher risk

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The investment consultant of the NMI Settlement Fund is now recommending a shift of the Fund's investment policy to "moderate risk

strategy" from "very conservative" considering that it has now sufficient funds in its reserves.

Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang disclosed the Fund's investment consultant Wilshire Investments' recommendation in her report filed Friday

See FUND on Page 4



Tang



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Cha Bistro Saipan opened last April and is a welcome addition to the very short list of dining establishments serving genuine local cuisine on island.

PAGE 14



FOCUS

Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke's recent vow to take away people's AR-15 and AK-47 rifles raised one big question.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

"Game of Thrones" resurrected the Iron Throne at Sunday's Emmy ceremony, ruling as top drama.

PAGE 20



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- from Saipan, Chamorro medicine group Inetnun Amot yan Kutturan Natibu
- from Rota, apprentice wood carver Richard Songsong Manglona and sling stone practitioner Lino Rosario
- from Guam, master body ornamentation craftswoman Julie "Jill" Benavente, master blacksmith Francisco Cruz Lizama, master bone carver Greg Techaira Pangelinan, master shrimp trap maker Rosita Yoshia San Nicolas, assistant shrimp trap maker Joseph Kenneth Yoshida San Nicolas, master storyboard/Guam seal/clock carver Tanya Beth Smau Taitano, and master "ifit" carver Robert Philip Taitano, Jr.

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For more information, contact Tinian Mayor's Office at 1.670.433.1802 or joesntiq@gmail.com, the 17th Municipal Council at 1.670.433.3470, or Marianas Visitors Authority Field Office Supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or 1.670.433.9365.



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A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Local

Sablan: USCIS accepts 1,485 CW extensions

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reportedly accepted over 900 CW-1 extension petitions as of Sept. 9, 2019 according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), covering a total of 1,485 workers.

In his weekly newsletter, Sablan said that USCIS reports that 911 CW-1 extension petitions have been received and accepted as of Sept. 9, 2019.

He added that USCIS also reported on the status of 9,923 CW-1 workers whose permits will expire this Sept. 30, though no clarification was provided.

"Employers can file an extension of stay application before the current CW-1 status expires to allow their CW-1 workers to continue working for up to 240 days or until the application is adjudicated, whichever is earlier," Sablan noted as a reminder.

He further emphasized that USCIS will only accept the Aug. 1, 2018, version of the form I-129CW, adding that

the agency will reject earlier versions of the form that are submitted.

"Employers should be sure to review the agency's Form I-129CW webpage for the latest updates and information prior to filing their petitions," he said.

There are 12,500 CW slots

available for fiscal year 2020.

However, with the additional paperwork requiring employers to secure Temporary Labor Certifications from the U.S. Department of Labor, several employers are fearful that a large number of CW workers will have to leave the island because of delays in the

issuance of the documents.

A recent Saipan Chamber of Commerce internal survey noted that a total of 332 CW-1 renewal applications are not expected to make it to the Sept. 30, 2019, deadline.

That would result in these employees having to exit the CNMI.

Chinese arrivals see 20% decrease in August

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority reports that arrivals from China are 20% off this year from August 2018's arrival numbers. A total of 17,255 Chinese visitors arrived on Saipan in August, down from last July's 18,356 visitors.

The Chinese market is currently seeing a drop in arrivals as the ongoing tensions in Hong Kong plays a big role in the decrease of arrivals. Hong Kong Airlines and Hong Kong Express have been reducing and cancelling flights due to the intensity of the tensions, and this has been strongly influencing local tourism and the number

of visitors to the Marianas in recent months.

In addition, the rising exchange rates, the highest in 11 years, is also affecting potential tourists' decision to visit an American destination. Rising exchange rates of the renminbi versus the U.S. dollar are becoming a burden to Chinese tourists.

Although Chinese nationals accounted for fewer than 8% of overseas visitors to the U.S. in 2018, according to the National Travel and Tourism Office, they contributed more to the U.S. economy than those from any other country.

Numerous MVA board members expressed this concern as the Chinese market is considered the CNMI's No.

1 source market for tourists. The CNMI's other major source markets are South Korea and Japan, which are also experiencing lower arrival numbers.

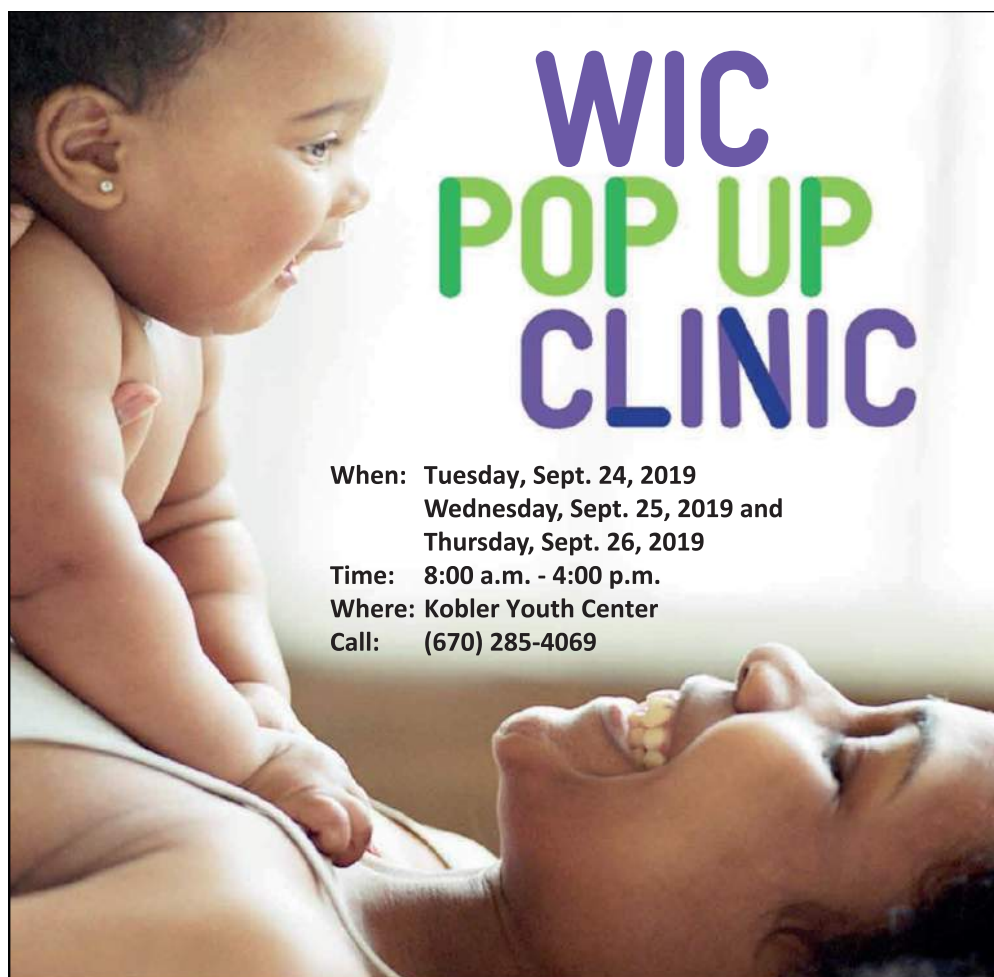
The Korean market has seen a 5% decrease compared to August 2018, with 26,127 visitors compared to last year's 27,350. Korea is facing economic struggles due to a trade war between Korea and Japan, declining exports, and to a lesser extent, the trade war between the U.S. and China.

As a result of a rising exchange rate between the Korean won and U.S. dollar, Korean travelers are less likely to travel to the U.S. destinations than a year ago. South Korean consumer sentiment dipped to the worst level in 31 months in August on growing concerns over the export reliant economy amid worsening diplomatic and trade disputes between Korea and Japan, plus the protracted trade war between the U.S. and China. The average USD/won exchange rate in August was 1,209.00 won, a slight increase from the previous rate of 1,174.40 won in July.

Another impact was from Asiana Airlines downsizing its aircraft to the Marianas, but T'Way Air will operate additional flights to Saipan beginning Oct. 27, which is expected to boost the number of visitors from Korea.

Japan posted a 69% decrease in arrivals compared to August 2018, with the 1,540 visitors arriving compared to last year's 4,950 visitors. The main factor behind this decrease is due to fewer charter flights this year; last August 2018 saw 28 charter flights to the Marianas offered by Jin Air and Asiana Airlines. This year, Skymark Airlines Inc. operated only six charter flights during the peak travel holiday.

MVA's current goal is to secure daily flights from Japan. Skymark will have three more charter flights to Saipan this month, with an eye toward having regular direct flights to the CNMI later this year.



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Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019
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OAG: Settlement Fund, not CNMI acting in bad faith

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General asserted last Thursday that it is the NMI Settlement Fund and not the CNMI government that is in breach of the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action by including the Commonwealth from the Fund's lawsuit against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Deputy attorney general Lillian A. Tenorio, counsel for defendants Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the CNMI government, said the Settlement Fund contends that the Commonwealth is in "breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing" by injuring their right to receive unpaid pension obligations of CUC.

Tenorio said the Settlement Fund is under the assumption that the Commonwealth is liable for the claim against CUC in the Fund's lawsuit against CUC.

"This assumption is erroneous," said Tenorio in defendants' reply to the Settlement Fund's opposition to their (defendants) motion to enforce the final judgment in Johnson's class action.

The deputy AG cited a section of the settlement agree-

ment in Johnson's class action that states, "the CNMI Fund shall assign to the CNMI all rights to collect employer contributions deficient as of Aug. 6, 2013 and related costs from the autonomous agencies...except with respect to rights and liabilities related to" the Fund's suit in the Superior Court.

She said the settlement agreement was intended to be a full and final agreement where "each and every claim that has been alleged, or could have been alleged, in the Johnson action, shall be settled and compromised."

Tenorio said the Settlement Fund disregarded the settlement agreement when it re-alleged these fully and finally settled claims against the Commonwealth in its Superior Court lawsuit.

Defendants Torres and the CNMI government request the U.S. District Court for the NMI to enjoin the Settlement Fund from prosecuting any further action against the Commonwealth in the Superior Court.

Tenorio cited another section of the settlement agreement that provides that "the CNMI Fund for themselves, their legal successors and assigns...do hereby absolutely,

and forever release, waive, relinquish and discharge the CNMI" from any claims that could have been asserted in the Johnson's class action.

Tenorio said despite the broad language of that section of the settlement agreement, on April 10, 2019, the Settlement Fund filed an amended complaint in Superior Court against the CNMI seeking, among other things, to recover unpaid pension obligations of CUC.

Tenorio said in the first cause of action of its first amended complaint, the Settlement Fund alleges that the "NMI government has breached its contractual obligations by paying government employer contribution at rates far below the actuarial rates."

Tenorio said the Settlement Fund alleges that as a result "benefits of the retirement system have been diminished and impaired, resulting in damages owed to the Settlement Fund in an amount to be proven at trial."

The deputy AG said the first amended complaint is a duplicative suit prohibited by the terms of the settlement agreement.

She said each and every one of the claims asserted against the Commonwealth has been

fully and finally settled in the instant case with the approval of the settlement agreement by the District Court.

"If anyone is acting in bad faith, it is the Settlement Fund," Tenorio pointed out.

Tenorio said the settlement agreement settled all liabilities of the Commonwealth and its agencies to the Settlement Fund as of Aug. 3, 2013.

She said although CUC is an agency of the Commonwealth, the settlement agreement specifically and narrowly carved out from the

settlement agreement claims against CUC in the Superior Court case.

Tenorio said the District Court has already fully determined the Commonwealth's liability for all claims for past deficient employer contributions as of the date of the settlement agreement.

She said it has been resolved that the Commonwealth will make annual contributions and other payments to the Settlement Fund under the settlement agreement.

Tenorio noted that the par-

ties agreed to a judgment in the sum of \$779 million, or the equivalent of the actuarial present value of the settlement class members' benefits.

Tenorio said permitting the Settlement Fund to pursue claims against the Commonwealth for additional contributions constitutes a double recovery.

Most importantly, she said, the Settlement Fund has raised new claims in its first amended complaint that were not in existence as of the date of

See OAG on Next Page

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CW

From Page 1

visitors and our businesses, then we will not have a sufficient economy," she said. She emphasized that the importance of the CW renewal process, which is on a timely basis, must be understood as it plays a vital role in the CNMI economy.

There have been issues regarding the renewals of the CW permits and Aldan-Pierce said that the MVA and the CNMI government are working on this issue in Washington, D.C. She said that there are various business organizations that are lobbying and

meeting with as many people as they can to show them the true impact of the loss of CW workers in the islands.

Like many hotels in the CNMI, Saipan World Resort is bound to lose CW workers whose renewal applications are still pending, according to its Human Resources manager Jun Ham.

"It will be extremely difficult for most hotels to maintain the quality of service with the loss of these essential positions that the CW workers have in the hotels," he said.

"Departments affected are maintenance, construction, and housekeeping...these are mostly filled by CW workers and these are integral de-

partments in the hotel business... the service side which include food & beverage and kitchen will suffer the most," he added.

Last week, other hotels disclosed that they are expecting to lose hundreds of CW workers that will push these establishments to minimize services like closing down in-house restaurants, limit accommodations, and also authorize overtime work for other workers that will be left behind.

"World Resort hotel has been employing U.S. workers for the past 10 years and that is why we have a high rate of local workers... we are continuously hiring locals, but there are times we can't get

enough local workers and this is what our CW workers fill in," Ham said.

While U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services could still approve an extension to the Sept. 30, 2019 CW application deadline, Ham wants to stay objective.

"We are not counting on hope because in the hotel business, we cannot make plans based on hope... we will try to survive and any word or update from USCIS, we will be keeping our eyes on it," he said.

Aldan-Pierce said the issue with the entire CW process is that the federal government must understand that the CNMI does not have enough

people to fill all of the positions that the service industry requires.

"It is difficult for somebody who has never lived or been on an island, and has never owned a business on island to really understand what they're doing to us," she said.

Among the struggles of the service industry is numerous businesses tag along with the waiting process in order to avoid having their CW employees be forced to exit without the possibility to return.

Saipan Tribune was able to get two separate interviews with hotel employees that requested anonymity regarding the expiration of the CW-1 permits.

The first worker has two U.S. citizen children, one who is currently attending high school and the other attending middle school. The uncertainty of the situation behind the CW-1 process has left him and his wife no choice but to exit, leaving them with the choice to either

bring their children or have them stay with his brother's family for the time being.

Meanwhile, the second worker, is hoping that House Resolution 560 would pass as she has been working in the CNMI for over 15 years. She has a U.S. citizen daughter who will be graduating from high school this year and she does not want to leave her daughter alone, especially in times like this where everyone in the CNMI is struggling financially with the austerity measures observed by the government and some private entities.

H.R. 560, which proposes to provide permanent resident status to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI, or CW workers, was marked up at the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources with only one amendment. It passed the committee with no opposition, setting the stage for the bill to be taken up on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

PUBLIC

From Page 1

any outbreaks happening.

In a statement, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. said it is closely monitoring the situation in Guam and other Pacific areas that currently have dengue outbreaks, and urges the community to be exceptionally careful when visiting Guam, as well as other areas with dengue outbreaks.

In a separate interview, CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis said CHCC's Bureau of Environmental Health has conducted searches of mosquitoes on shipments arriving from Guam in order to remove any possibility of a dengue

outbreak in the CNMI.

CHCC remind residents to use insect repellent and dress appropriately when outdoors to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes while off-island and for at least two weeks after returning to the CNMI.

CHCC has reported a total of two imported cases of the dengue fever, but both cases have been confirmed under control. CHCC has conducted its usual protocols of assuring that the patient is not to be bitten by mosquitoes and have rid of the dengue fever.

Dengue does not always present its symptoms, so it is important to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes when returning to the CNMI until there is no chance of

transmission.

Guam DPHSS has reported that through the closing of business through last Saturday morning, a total of six additional cases of the dengue fever with five being locally acquired cases. DPHSS continues efforts by investigating the newly confirmed cases and identifying additional details to limit the spread of the virus with support continuing from other GovGuam agencies, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, Pacific Island Health Officers Association, and local Guam health care providers.

A total of three schools cancelled classes last Monday as the DPHSS investigated one of the locally-acquired

cases were in one of the three schools. The ongoing dengue fever issue in Guam has been sparking fears of an outbreak and some residents of Saipan have been advised to avoid travel to Guam in order to avoid the virus to spread.

At the request of Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, DPHSS director Linda Unpingco-Denorcey attended the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials 2019 Annual Meeting and Policy Summit. She is seeking additional resources regarding the dengue cases affecting Guam.

If you develop any fever, chills, pain behind the eyes, rashes, nausea, vomiting, or joint pain, seek immediate medical care.

OAG

From Page 3

settlement.

She said that in its original complaint, the CNMI Fund (the Settlement Fund's predecessor) alleged, among other things, that CUC (not the Commonwealth) was deficient in employer contributions.

To be clear, Tenorio said, the original claims in the CNMI Fund's lawsuit in the Superior Court did not include any allegations against the Commonwealth at all.

Therefore, she said, the Settlement Fund cannot amend the lawsuit to add new claims against the Commonwealth because the settlement agreement waives and releases all claims arising out of deficient contributions, impairment of pension, impairment of constitution, or any other claims that Johnson, the settlement class, and the CNMI Fund could have brought against the Commonwealth prior to the date of final approval of the settlement agreement.

The NMI Settlement Fund, through counsel Nicole M. Torres-Ripple, recently filed in District Court an opposition to CNMI's motion to enforce Johnson's settlement agreement.

Torres-Ripple said the CNMI's disavowing the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action it made and refusing to recognize the Settlement Fund's right to proceed on these claims against the government to recover unpaid employer contributions, is tantamount to bad faith.

According to court records, in 2011, the NMI Retirement Fund filed a lawsuit against CUC before the Superior Court to collect unpaid wages contributions. The NMI Re-

tirement Fund sought a judgment in the total amount of \$4.4 million calculated as of April 2011.

In 2013, the District Court gave final approval to the global settlement agreement in Johnson's class action against the CNMI government and the NMI Retirement Fund.

With the final approval, all Retirement Fund assets were transferred to the Settlement Fund, administered by a court-appointed trustee.

In 2017, the Retirement Fund, CUC, CNMI, and Settlement Fund stipulated to the substitution of the Settlement Fund as the plaintiff in the Superior Court lawsuit pursuant to the Johnson's settlement deal.

In April 2019, the Settlement Fund filed its first amended complaint in the Superior Court and added the CNMI as CUC's co-defendant.

The Settlement Fund's amended complaint charges the Commonwealth with breach of contract for not paying its pension obligations, violating the Commonwealth Constitution for not paying its pension obligations, violating a CNMI statute by not paying its pension obligations, violating the federal contracts clause by not paying its pension obligations, and for "void assignment of debt."

CUC moved to dismiss the lawsuit, asserting that the CNMI government absorbed all liabilities owed to the NMI Settlement Fund as of Aug. 6, 2013 through Johnson's settlement agreement.

Last June, the NMI Settlement Fund trustee asked the District Court to issue an order enforcing the Johnson settlement agreement and finding that the claims asserted in the Superior Court case were not resolved by that settlement deal.

FUND

From Page 1

with the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Tang's report covered the combined period from the fourth quarter fiscal year 2017 through third quarter fiscal year 2019.

Tang said from the inception, the Settlement Fund's investment policy was very conservative because the Fund's reserves was not sufficient to cover at least two years of ben-

efit payments, and therefore, could not take high levels of capital markets risk.

She said Wilshire Investments is now recommending a change of asset allocation targets away from the previous glidepath strategy, to a moderate risk strategy with an expected return of 4.26%.

The trustee said because of late cycle and lower interest rates, it is expected returns will be lower in the future.

Tang said given the lower future expected returns, and the need to generate the ac-

tual expected return of 4% annually, the Settlement Fund needs to take higher risk.

Tang said with cautious optimism, it is now hoped the Settlement Fund can take moderately higher risk because of the positive trajectory of the Settlement Fund asset growth that now has sufficient funds in its reserves to cover two years of benefit payments.

She said this cautious optimism is subject to the continued support from the CNMI government by honoring its Settlement Fund funding obligations.

available for sale. Heavy equipment and trucks will not be available for rent. Super Typhoon Yutu home repairs requiring quarry products, heavy equipment, and trucks will be delayed," the Chamber noted in their survey report, citing what seemed to be a large construction company.

"We are the largest supplier of aggregates and ready-mix concrete for Saipan and we have paving operations for asphaltic concrete paving. Paving operations will completely close down without the experienced operators for road grader, compaction rollers in paving, paving spreader operator, and skilled labor for raking and leveling the asphalt," the Chamber noted, citing another construction company.

Other respondents noted

70%

From Page 1

26% of respondents would have to over-extend current staff to make up for the loss of manpower; 22% of respondents would have to limit business hours; and 9% of respondents would have to completely close down operations permanently.

One long-time business, Hollywood Video, will permanently close down its Garapan branch because of CW issues on Sept. 30, 2019. The video rental shop had been in business on Saipan since 1992.

Among other businesses in the CNMI, the Chamber noted disruptions in the community due to delays in CW renewals for those in the construction industry.

Some comments the Chamber compiled from respondents noted the business impact of the CW exodus. The organization did not name the companies.

"Renovation of private houses, businesses, or government offices that were damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu will be delayed," the Chamber cited one of their respondents.

"We will not be able to supply the dearly needed typhoon damage repair building materials needed to rebuild the islands," said another business according to the Chamber survey report.

The most impactful to the community included comments from a merchandiser of quarry products.

"[Our] 'active projects' completion will be delayed. Quarry products will not be

Vibe Fest sells out tickets



MARC A. VENUS

Samu was part of the four other singers that participated in last Friday's Vibe Fest Marianas. The group was welcomed by numerous cheers from the crowd and some audience members got the chance to sing on stage with the singers.

By **MARC A. VENUS**

marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first-ever Vibe Fest Marianas last Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's beach side was a major success as the concert was able to sell out tickets on both general and VIP admissions.

Roil Soil Clothing owner Shayne Villanueva and AltrxEgo Entertainment CEO Ben Schiff both expressed their gratitude to Fiesta Resort for opening up the beach area to fit a huge crowd of over 100 spectators.

The event featured singers Jordan T, Bo Napoleon, Samu, Leah & Shannon, and the 4FOR4 band playing for the singers. Spectators were given

a surprise as not only were they able to listen to each of the singers' signature hits, but each had a piece to sing for the island of Saipan.

Schiff informed *Saipan Tribune* that VIP tickets sold out on the day of the concert, and that general admission tickets were still being sold on the door. Schiff said that AltrxEgo Entertainment is planning on making another and even bigger event, as one of their goals is to have a Saipan local band play along with the visiting talent.

"We are happy with the community's support and belief in what we are doing, without the community, we would be nothing," Villanueva said.

Schiff thanked the people of

Keeping physically healthy for mental health

By **IVA MAURIN**

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REPORTER

In school, the goal is about child development, where children learn to read, write, do math, and also, learn to play and do sports.

Keeping physically healthy is a good mental exercise. As part of the mental health fair going on in campuses this September, the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program, in partnership with the Public School System and other community organizations, gave children opportunities to play and interact with each other through games, exercises, and other fun activities.

"There's really tons and tons of research that indicates that movement and meaningful physical activity is one of the greatest ways to blow off steam and negative vibes," PSS Student Support Services athletic program director Nick Gross said.

"In education, yes, we want our kids to read and do arithmetic. These are super important skills. But we need to take care of our vessel, and the vessel would be that physical side of things and the ability to move."

Gross adds that exercise

is one of the easiest ways for kids to get through difficult times in life.

Aside from exercise, Community Guidance Center's Joseph Ada makes sure that the kids are educated early on about the dangers of underage drinking and illegal substances.

"Part of our services at the Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit is to go around the different schools, and we educate the kids on the dangers of underage drinking, and illegal substances," Ada said.

"We feel that if we educate the kids early on, if the time comes that they encounter situations [concerning drinking and illegal substances], they already have the information that they need, and that they can make a better educated decision."

The CGC Prevention Services Unit conducts presentations at the start of every school year and in special events, conducting presentations to educate and ensure that the youth will be healthy and safe.

To help and for more information on suicide prevention, contact the GLS Youth Suicide Prevention Program at 664-5483/5433 or via email at cnmiglsysp@gmail.com.

Saipan for their hospitality and making them feel like family, as it means a lot to the company and the singers. Jordan T told *Saipan Tribune* that during his last Vibe Fest performance in Guam, he was asking Schiff if they could have one done on Saipan.

Schiff said that the singers are asking about another concert in Saipan, as they loved the atmosphere and the people.

Vibe Fest Marianas would like to thank the following sponsors: Marianas Visitors Authority, BudWeiser, AltrxEgo Entertainment, Roil Soil Cloting, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Marianas Variety, Hertz Rental Car, Boarderline Surf Shop, Power 99, Tribe Marianas,

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IT&E

Addressing the trash problem through behavioral change

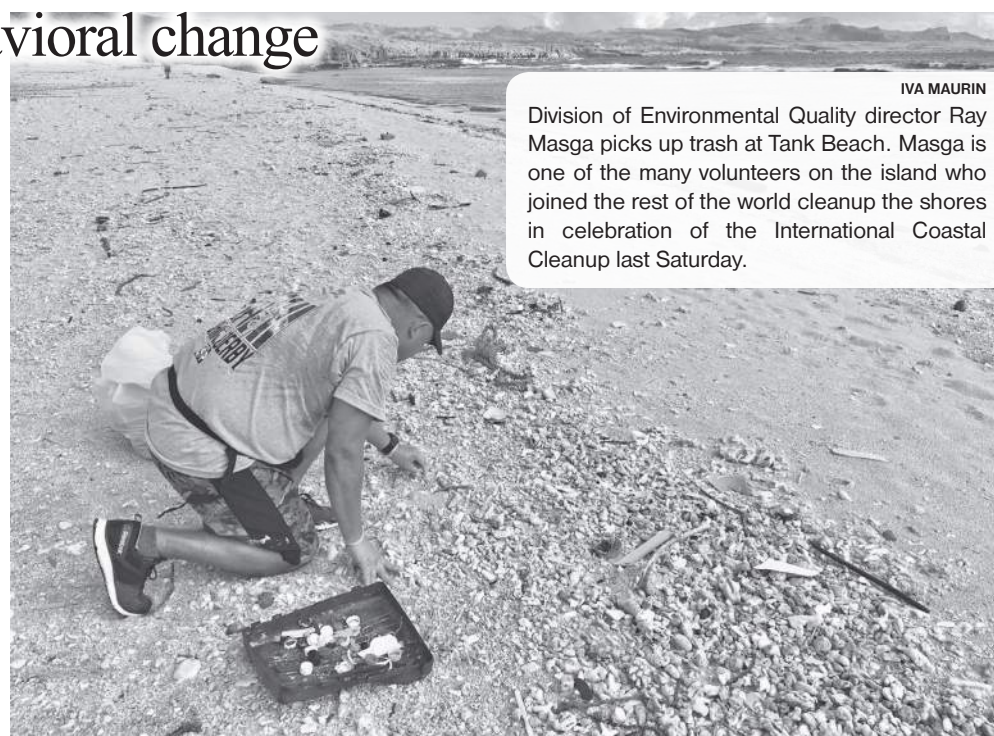
By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As CNMI volunteers geared up and headed down the coast to take part in the International Coastal Cleanup last

Saturday, there was one type of trash they were really concerned about—plastic.

Based on the 2019 ICC report by the Ocean Conservancy, an estimated eight million metric tons of plastic waste

flows into the ocean every year. This is the equivalent of one dump truck full of plastic “dumping” into the ocean every single minute of every day, polluting beaches and coastlines, and affecting 800



Division of Environmental Quality director Ray Masga picks up trash at Tank Beach. Masga is one of the many volunteers on the island who joined the rest of the world cleanup the shores in celebration of the International Coastal Cleanup last Saturday.



**Military Veterans Town Hall Meeting on:
Tuesday, September 24, 2019
from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

**At the Office Veterans Affairs
1364 Anatahan Dr. Capital Hill, Saipan**

**Thursday, September 26, 2019
from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
At the Tinian Mayor's Office
Conference Room**

**Town Hall Meeting to discuss current
and all Military Veterans related issues.**

**If you have questions, contact:
Vivian S. Taitano at (670) 664-2651**

species of marine life.

This is crucial, especially for islands like the CNMI.

Rochelle Vasquez of Pagago, one of the volunteers, believes that humans have created an environmental crisis.

“We created the environmental crisis that’s going on now, and it is important to clean up our own mess,” Vasquez said. “We should help end the environmental crisis that we have created. This cleanup is important because it has a unity aspects where people from all over the world can come together as one to help clean up the earth to make it a better place.”

At the ICC, people from all over the island came out and volunteered to clean up the shores, joining millions of people all over the world.

Division of Environmental Quality director Ray Masga, who joined the volunteers clean up at Tank Beach, heralded the volunteers for their

“show of an unselfish care for the environment.”

“[The volunteers] are doing their part to unselfishly come out and take care of our environment,” Masga said. “One of the ways that we can demonstrate this is people volunteering, coming out and showing that they really do care about how the environment provides for us, home to build on, food, plant and animals to raise.”

Masga, however, quickly stressed the need for people to throw trash properly.

“There are people who just selfishly throw trash where they are not supposed to,” Masga said, quickly adding that “even though the trash [has been thrown] up on the hillside, in the jungle, or wherever, it eventually could end up on the coasts because they could get into the waterways.”

One of the key ways to address this is through environmental education campaigns all over the island, to change

community behavior toward trash.

“A lot of this is just an attitude of not understanding why it is important not to just throw trash in the jungle, or to tell our kids [about proper trash management] so they would not go and take the garbage there or by the coast,” Masga said.

“We need more public education, and public education meaning, that we go in and enforce the litter regulations and cite people. Maybe that’s the hard way of learning, but eventually, people have to realize that we need to change. We need to change our behavior.”

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and other agencies, with the Saipan Mayor’s Office, have the responsibility of making sure that no illegal dumping occurs on the island. However, it is also up to all members of the community to do their part in properly managing trash.

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This project was supported by Grant B04MC32563 CFDA 93.994 from HRSA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA or HHS.



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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby gives notice that CPA is applying for a USDA Loan for funding of the proposed Rehabilitation of Runway 7/25 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the proposed airport improvement and accept any written comments.

A public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, September 24, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Saipan Airport Fire Station.

Persons wishing to provide comments but who are unable to attend the public hearing may drop their comments to the CPA Administration Office, attention to CPA's Executive Director, Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio, second floor arrival building, mail them to P.O. Box 501055, Saipan MP 96950, fax to (670) 234-5962 or email them to cpa.admin@pticom.com by no later than **September 30, 2019.**

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: September 12, 2019

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Guam, CNMI celebrate 3rd annual Community of Practice

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Guam Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs conducted their 3rd Annual Community of Practice on Saipan from last July 29 to 31. The annual CoP was established to promote peer-to-peer mentorship, coordination, and alignment in home visiting efforts.

Guam MIECHV project director Margarita Gay, RN, MN, said that the event was a major success and that the participants are a good example of public health staff working in

the community and promoting good health, well-being, and working together to bring healthy family beginnings to the people they serve.

The two programs share the same vision and have common goals to achieve in the Pacific Region, with the main going to create healthy families across CNMI and Guam through the use of an evidence-based Home Visiting Model from Healthy Families America.

The site visiting agenda consisted of various shadowing and round table discussions about the programs, through

coordination with Project Bisita in Guam, by covering the following areas: programmatic success, challenges, and fiscal activities the upcoming planning for a Statewide Needs Assessment, data management quality improvement initiatives, and collaborative efforts in additional technical assistance requests.

All CoP participants agree that the annual CoP has impacted their approach to the work they perform. All participating teams are exposed to challenges faced by MIECHV programs in the

U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands, such as language barriers and cultural sensitivity. The experience and expertise that came to light from the three days spent together was invaluable, and both the CNMI and Guam teams hope to share future experiences with their counterparts in American Samoa.

The CHCC Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early-Childhood Visiting Program is a free, voluntary, in-home service that can support you through the joys and challenges of pregnancy and par-

enting. The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program supports mothers, fathers, caregivers, and their families through a range of weekly to quarterly home visits with an assigned Family Partner Advocate. The program currently has 117 enrolled families across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, with five FPAs on Saipan and one FPA each on Tinian and Rota.

The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program can assist parents with: prenatal care planning & education, what to expect as your child grows, caring for a parent and baby's needs, home

safety measures, developmental screening and activities, job searching, continued education, and community resources families may benefit from.

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

- A standardized screening tool will be used to identify families who are eligible to enroll and benefit from the program.

- Must be a CNMI resident.

- Can enroll prenatally or with a child less than three months old

For more information, contact (670) 664-8701/02, or email mchbcnmi@gmail.com. (Marc A. Venus)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Friends of the Arts special members meeting

Come and join us for a special occasion, a Friends of the Arts members meeting, tomorrow, Sept. 25, at the Infino Restaurant. Come and enjoy a delicious buffet dinner and musical entertainment by the Marianas High School Glee Club and the Community Choir.

Meet the FOA board and its members and sponsors. The dinner cost is \$16 for adults and \$8 for children under 11 in age. The Infino Restaurant is located on Beach Road in Garapan in the Star Sands Hotel where Tony's Seafood used to be located, next to QQ Car

Rental and across Beach Road from Johnny's and Cheers. Please join us at 6:30pm.

You do not have to be a member of Friends of the Arts to join us for this special evening.

Please make a reservation by contacting Frank Gibson by e-mail at fgibson@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 287-7476. Early reservations are important so we can let the restaurant know how many to prepare for. (PR)

DMS to hold PTSA today

Dandan Middle School will conduct its first Parent Teacher Association (PTSA) for school year 2019-

2020 today, Sept. 24, 2019 6pm in the school's cafeteria.

DMS principal James DLG Sablan encourages all parents to please come and join the school in making this school year a success for the students. (PR)

Military to conduct training in open ocean

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises from 8am to 4pm on Sept. 24 and 25 within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13°03'N/144°51'E, 13°03'N/144°70'E, 12°86'N/144°70'E, and 12°86'N/144°51'E.

It is recommended the general public, fishermen, and

marine tour operators monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. (PR)

The SIS 5K Fun Run is back!

After many years SIS is hosting another 5K Fun Run. Along with the Gecko 5000 Cross Country Invitational, more than 200 participants will be heading to Banzai Cliff and Last Command on Sept. 28, 2019. Registration is at 6am and start time is a 6:30am.

There are prizes and shirts for the fun/run participants. You can register the same day of the event or pre-register at SIS Office. Cross Country

runners must register through their coach before the event.

All proceeds will go to purchase much needed instructional materials for all grades. (PR)

Pro-life walk/roll on Sept. 27, 2019

Grace Christian Ministries Navy Hill is inviting the public to join them for a candlelight prayer walk/roll on Friday, Sept. 27, at 5:30pm, at the Minachom Atdao. Its purpose is to pray over the many needs of the island related to the issue of abortion. After the worship songs and prayer there will be a walk/roll to Quartermaster Road then back to Minachon Atdao. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 12th birthday to Davin Nekaifes. So many great things come in 12s: months in a year, inches in a foot, donuts, eggs, roses, hours on the clock, zodiac signs, birthstones, and most importantly you. We love you so much and we wish you for many more birthdays to come. From Mom, Paul, grandma, and siblings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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For more information, please call Bank of Saipan at 235-6260/1/2



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-024

W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing laterals, the abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and the elimination of the old W-5 wet well and the W-6 sewer lift station.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-024, W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 27, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Kiribati cuts ties with Taiwan, presaging switch to China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The Pacific island nation of Kiribati cut diplomatic ties with Taiwan on Friday, becoming the second country to do so this week and strengthening Beijing's hand.

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said that Kiribati had officially notified his government of the decision.

Kiribati is expected to recognize China, which has pledged billions of dollars in aid to help lure it and six other countries into switching allegiance since 2016, when Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen took office.

Taiwan "deeply regrets and strongly condemns the Kiribati government's decision, which disregards the multifaceted assistance and sincere friendship extended by Taiwan to Kiribati over the years," Wu said at a news conference.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang commended Kiribati's switch, which comes four days after the Solomon Islands, once Taiwan's largest ally in the South Pacific, severed ties in favor of China.

"This fully testifies to the fact that the one-China principle meets the shared aspiration of the people and constitutes an irresistible trend of the times," he said.

China claims sovereignty over self-ruled Taiwan and wants the island to reunite with the mainland. The two split in 1949 during a civil war. Beijing resents Tsai for rejecting its precondition for dialogue that both belong to a single China. It has flown military aircraft near the island

and pared back Taiwan-bound tourism to add pressure on her government.

Taiwan has 15 allies left, compared to about 180 countries that recognize China.

"China has made the point that it can snatch as many diplomatic allies of Taiwan as it wishes," said Fabrizio Bozzato, a Taiwan Strategy Research Association fellow who specializes in the Pacific.

Taiwan looks to its allies, mostly small, poor countries, for international legitimacy and a voice in the United Nations. Taiwan left the United Nations in 1971 as the international body recognized China.

A total loss of allies would cut all formal outside recognition of Taiwan's government, formally called the Republic of China, and make it easier for Beijing to claim it, said Chao Chien-min, dean of social sciences at the Chinese Cultural University in Taipei.

"Other countries will call you a non-state and then what happens?" he said. "Let's say the People's Liberation Army uses non-peaceful means for an activity in the Taiwan Strait. The United Nations can't do anything. If other countries get involved, what legitimacy do they have to help Taiwan?"

The Chinese pressure is scaring ordinary Taiwanese, he said.

In the Solomon Islands, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare said in a statement Friday that his country had recognized China to ensure stability and avoid uncertainty over what might happen if Taiwanese decide to unite with China.

Wu remained defiant, saying

that Taiwan is not a province of the People's Republic of China, the Communist government that took power in 1949.

"China's international pressure will only consolidate the Taiwanese people's determination never to capitulate to the Chinese government," he said.

Some analysts believe Taiwan has built legitimacy by strengthening an informal alliance with the United States, its chief arms supplier, and joining the World Trade Organization and the inter-governmental Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.



Wu

"Taiwan is globally relevant economically, geopolitically and geo-strategically," Bozzato said. "It is indisputable that the Republic of China would continue to be independent, effectively exerting civil and military jurisdiction over a territory and a population."

Wu said China had used investments in fisheries and other industries to build up a presence in Kiribati, penetrating political circles and extending its influence.

Kiribati President Taneti Mamau requested "massive financial assistance" from

Taiwan to buy commercial aircraft, he said, a request inconsistent with Taiwan's international aid law.

China's Geng said that "those used to dollar-diplomacy may not understand that certain principles cannot be bought with money, neither can trust."

China and Taiwan competed for South Pacific allies before 2008, often using aid to motivate switches in recognition. The two sides observed an informal diplomatic truce from 2008 to 2016, during China-friendly Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou's term.



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**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/COTA19-ITB-017

SUBMISSION DATE: October 15, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Construction of the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Administrative and Maintenance Facility"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 2, 2019, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 4, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

/s/FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

President Trump's challenge is to prevent a Saudia Arabia-Iran war

For 16 months, President Donald Trump has pursued a policy toward Iran known as “maximum pressure,” beginning with the United States’ withdrawal from the nuclear accord secured by President Barack Obama under which Iran stopped advancing its nuclear weapons program.

This maximum pressure was not enough to bring Iran into line. Now, having ratcheted up the pressure so high, Trump’s options to deal with a new and drastic escalation this past weekend are badly limited. Military retaliation is one option, but the destabilization that follows could be devastating. Another path must be found.

The nuclear deal was imperfect, allowing Iran to continue funding terrorism and conduct proxy wars in Syria and Yemen. But the 2015 agreement, which included China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and Germany as signatories, provided a foundation from which Iran might have been persuaded to pursue better behavior in return for fewer economic sanctions.

Then Trump walked away from the deal in 2018. Since then, Iran has seen its economy dwindle into recession as oil exports were stymied. In response, Iran blew holes in four ships — including two Saudi oil tankers — anchored in the Persian Gulf in May, attacked two British oil tankers in the Straits of Hormuz in June, increased its uranium enrichment and shot down a drone operated by the United States.

This weekend, the Trump administration accused Iran of bombing crucial Saudi Arabian oil infrastructure. On Monday, this led to a cut in the world’s oil supply by 5% and a 13% spike in the price of oil, and Iran seized another tanker. If the attack came from Iran’s soil, it’s an extraordinary provocation.

Saudi Arabia says it will ask for a full UN investigation before it responds. Trump said of a possible war, “We’d certainly like to avoid it,” and that’s better than his vague weekend tweet that the United States is “locked and loaded.” Only a week ago, Trump was talking about meeting with Iran’s president and considering a \$15 billion line of credit to lure Iran into better behavior.

The atmosphere surrounding this weekend’s attacks is distressingly unstable. Voters in Israel will decide Tuesday whether Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump’s staunchest ally against the 2015 Iran deal, will continue to lead. In Iran, it’s not clear how the bombing of Saudi Arabia affects the machinations between hard-line clerics who want to spit in the eye of Americans and Saudis, and moderates who prioritize peace and prosperity.

In the United States, we have no national security adviser, no director of national intelligence, a defense secretary who has been on the job for six weeks, and a fickle, mercurial

See **PRESIDENT** on Next Page

Hong Kong democracy activists deserve US support

For nearly four months, millions of Hong Kong citizens from all walks of life have taken to the streets to protest Beijing’s efforts to curb their freedoms.

Last week some of the youthful heroes of Hong Kong’s democracy movement came to Washington to urge Congress to support their struggle. Their arguments were convincing, and not just because they are fighting for values we share, like civil liberties and rule of law.

The Hong Kong drama has taken on a global significance that goes far beyond an internal Chinese struggle. How Beijing chooses to resolve this struggle could powerfully impact its relationship with the West.

Hong Kong’s civic freedoms were supposedly enshrined in the 1984 Sino-British declaration, an international treaty that was the basis for Britain’s return of the territory to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. The pact guaranteed Hong Kong a “high degree of autonomy” for 50 years under a “One Country, Two Systems” framework that preserved the territory’s independent judiciary and pledged to expand free elections.

Beijing has been steadily eroding those freedoms in recent years. The current protests were sparked when the city’s Beijing-backed chief executive, Carrie Lam, introduced a controversial extradition bill that would have permitted Hong Kongers to be sent for trial in mainland China’s courts, which are subject to Communist Party control.

“Today, we are approaching dangerously close to “One Country, One System,” the 22-year-old, bespectacled, Joshua Wong testified before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. Wong was a teen-aged leader of the 2014 Umbrella Movement that protested Beijing’s escalating curbs on election freedoms. When I interviewed him in 2016, he conceded that the odds of preserving Hong Kong democracy resembled David’s against Goliath, but said, “We are trying to create a miracle.”

The present movement is leaderless — and mostly peaceful, with some very violent, small exceptions. But the Hong Kong police reaction, with Beijing’s encouragement, has been brutal with at least 1,400 arrests.

“No one can be certain what will happen after Oct. 1,” Wong said last week, referring to the date of upcoming 70th anniversary celebrations of the establishment of the People’s Republic of China.

Clearly Beijing is wary of a military crackdown that might resemble the 1989 massacre in Tiananmen Square, and Lam recently withdrew the extradition bill. However, demonstrators

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



now insist they won’t stop before election freedoms are expanded and jailed protesters released. Wong cautioned: “Sending in the tanks remains irrational but not impossible.”

Here is where the Hong Kong issue becomes far larger than the fate of its 7.5 million people. If Beijing cannot tolerate the “one country, two systems” model within its territory, to which it is committed by treaty, what does that portend for its future behavior towards small democracies nearby? What would that mean for the political future of Taiwan, a U.S. ally, which Beijing considers to be a renegade province?

“If Hong Kong falls, it would easily become the springboard for ... China to push its rules and priorities overseas,” argued singer and democracy activist Denise Ho. She has been black-listed as a performer in China for her political stance.

One world, two models, with China promoting the authoritarian model as the winner?

But there is yet another reason for Congress — and Americans — to focus on developments in Hong Kong. U.S. law gives special economic benefits to Hong Kong — treating it as a separate customs territory from mainland China, so long as Hong Kong remains “sufficiently autonomous.”

So Congress should pass the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, which would require the Secretary of State to certify annually that the territory met that standard. As Wong put it, “Beijing shouldn’t have it both ways, reaping all the economic benefits of Hong Kong’s standing in the world while eradicating our freedoms.”

And if President Trump were paying attention — rather than sloughing off the Hong Kong upheaval as “a very tough situation” — he would be quietly messaging Xi Jinping that it was in Beijing’s interest for the Hong Kong crisis to be peacefully resolved.

See **HONG KONG** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why have millennials not done as well as their parents?

Four or five years ago, having breakfast at the counter in a popular Annapolis, Md., eatery, I struck up a casual conversation with a stranger sitting next to me. I remember it as if it happened yesterday. This father, for all the right reasons, had pushed his son to get a college degree and counseled him to borrow money to do so. The son had incurred a loan in excess of \$100,000 and graduated into an economy of few job openings. He had no good job and no money to pay his debt. The father's pain, guilt and sense of regret were palpable. This is what happened to millennials following the 2008 Great Recession.

Millennials are generally defined to be those born from 1981 to 1996, now 22-37 years old. Some refer to them as the generation who refuses to grow up: no mortgage, no career plan, no marriage, no children. Why is this? Why have they not done as well as their parents?

Millennials came of age during a time of dramatic technological change, the proliferation of social media, globalization and economic disruption. For a better life, a bachelor's degree became all but prerequisite for an adequate wage. The Great Recession unloaded on millennials. They have lived through a slow 10-year recovery of a weak labor market and declining wages.

College tuition had risen sharply, and the federal loans incurred to repay it have been a considerable burden. Students can no longer work their way through college while taking classes the way they once could. Two-thirds of students who earned a four-year degree in 2017 borrowed to pay for school. Growing numbers of these loan debts are in arrears or in default. Among the total 45 million Americans signed up for the federal student loan program, the debt is now \$1.6 trillion.

Those in charge of these programs — aging politicians and policy-makers — favor the corporations, the wealthier and those over 65, the most reliable voters. This year's expected \$1 trillion deficit will add to the national debt of \$22 trillion. In America's rapidly aging society, every day about 10,000 individuals become eligible for Medicare. The children and grandchildren of today's adults are on the hook for these obligations.

We now face another possible recession, which would be the second to hit the millennials. To be employed in a stagnant and falling economy, a college education and technical training will be required, but these qualifications will not necessarily return

an adequate salary.

According to a Deloitte study, millennials are doing far worse financially than generations before them. Their average net worth is below \$8,000, a 34% drop in average net worth since 1996. The study found millennials' incomes have largely flatlined.

To pay off the lasting burden of the \$1.6 trillion student debt could take many borrowers a lifetime. These debts sap their life and career dreams. A Bloomberg Businessweek analysis found that U.S. student loan borrowers as a group are paying down only about 1% of their federal student loan debt every year.

The fundamental problem is that tuition has far outpaced inflation while wages have mostly stagnated. In recent years, the federal government has actually encouraged borrowers to stretch out their payments. According to the Bloomberg analysis, 60% of the balances of student loan borrowers rose in the first year of their repayment period.

The Great Recession created a particularly daunting challenge for millennials entering the job market. It has left a hangover of uncertainty and lost opportunity. It has affected their future earnings and wealth. Millennials live in a world much less safe,

By PERRY WEED
The Baltimore Sun

Perry L. Weed, attorney and founder/director of the Economic Club of Annapolis.



predictable and prosperous than did their parents. Their work is much less secure and the pay less certain. Neither the U.S. economy nor the government has delivered a better world for them than that experienced by their parents, the post World War II generation.

Millennials have displayed different attitudes toward ownership. They support the idea of a sharing economy. Is it any surprise they enthusiastically support presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren?

Pleading the 45th president (a summary proceeding preceding zero quartet)

"In the wake of horrible events each act is fortified with significance, unabsorbable as nutrients added to the outside of food: it can't do any good."

—Kay Ryan, poet and educator,
U.S. Poet Laureate 2008 to 2010

FLAILING FAILING and FALLING OFF THE WALL

About the U.S./Mexican border wall he flailed this way and that he brought up the subject many times at the beginning of his rule eschewing truth and spewing layers of lies filled with falsified fact about the walls necessity and practicality he failed reality school.

Nevertheless he persisted with hyperbolic fantasy plan after plan whether to call it barrier, wall, or a fence he just couldn't decide he met bipartisan Congressional resistance from woman and man the fact that he couldn't make or get Mexico to pay he tried to hide.

Now U.S. taxpayers will pay for the entire wall the cost be damned replacement fencing sections with a tall metal fence are being erected things along the wall aren't going as well as he had poorly planned basically the whole wall idea by Congress has been totally rejected.

Now he's falling off the wall in many respects more ways than one locking children up in chain link metal cages under the border sun.

CHILDREN INSIDE CHAIN LINK CAGES

Were there chain link fences around your school yard? Don't they still use high chain link fences around jails? There's a new application for them by our POTUS dotard and its not for his campaign manager, lawyers, and pals.

Dogs and children live behind indoor and outdoor chain links all along the US Mexico state of Texas to California borders dogs are in their owners yards, children rot in their own stinks denied soap and toothbrushes and hidden from news reporters.

The Republicans blame previous Democratic administrations they separate children and infants from their immigrant parents the entire USA and the world at large is aghast at the situation as children's parents wait many months for asylum clearance. Look! Children inside chain link cages! Charged with innocence? What in the name of basic humanity and democracy is the defense?

A LESS THAN ZERO ANTI HERO

"I can't speak, my tongue is broken; a thin flame runs under my skin; seeing nothing"

—Sappho, female poet,
ancient Greece (610-580 B.C.)

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



He is much less than zero
and what else could be less?
well a set of negative numbers
a minus sign in front I guess.
He is a big disgrace in my eyes
and to much of the entire nation
this man who tweets twit for policy
unable to fathom many a situation.
His thoughts go up in smoke and hot air
like Nero fiddling. My father used to swear
"he doesn't amount to a piss hole in the snow"
a joyous day for the USA the day he will go
Less than a zero anti hero, what could be less?
when he's voted out of office. God Bless.

ZERO HERO'S BRAIN BED PAN

*—Epitaph with parts that may make you laugh
(being a sonnet style six-minute freestyle rap
written between 7:30 and 7:36am on 08/23/2019)*

He was a hollow and empty man
his mind was like stainless steel
it reflected back without feel
he didn't know what it meant
to be behind the wheel
of the most powerful democracy engine
in the world and showed it every day
he had a need for a brain bed pan
to catch the fecal flow from his flatulent
fried brain that puts a horrible strain
on anyone who tried to explain
the ins and outs of an issue
which couldn't sink in to his cerebral tissue
he was a very dangerous zero hero.

PRESIDENT

From Page 10

president. And our ally, Saudi Arabia, is as dedicated to funding terrorism, stoking proxy wars and ignoring human rights as Iran.

Trump played the tough guy, and Iran called him on it. Now he must try to bring Iran back into line by promising progress, because punishment has failed. There is no justification for the United States attacking Iran, and the consequences for the world if Saudi Arabia does so could be devastating.

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HONG KONG

From Page 11






After all, well over half of all nonportfolio investment coming to and from China to the rest of the world passes through Hong Kong in one form or another, according to former U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong, Kurt Tong. "Why would that be? It's because of the legal structure and the reliability of the Hong Kong courts and Hong Kong law," he said recently, at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. That's why there's 1,400 U.S. companies operating there.

In other words, support for Hong Kong's democracy activists is good for U.S. interests, U.S. values, and even for Beijing, if it grasped the message. "Historians will celebrate the United States Congress for having stood on the side of Hong Kongers," Joshua Wong promised.

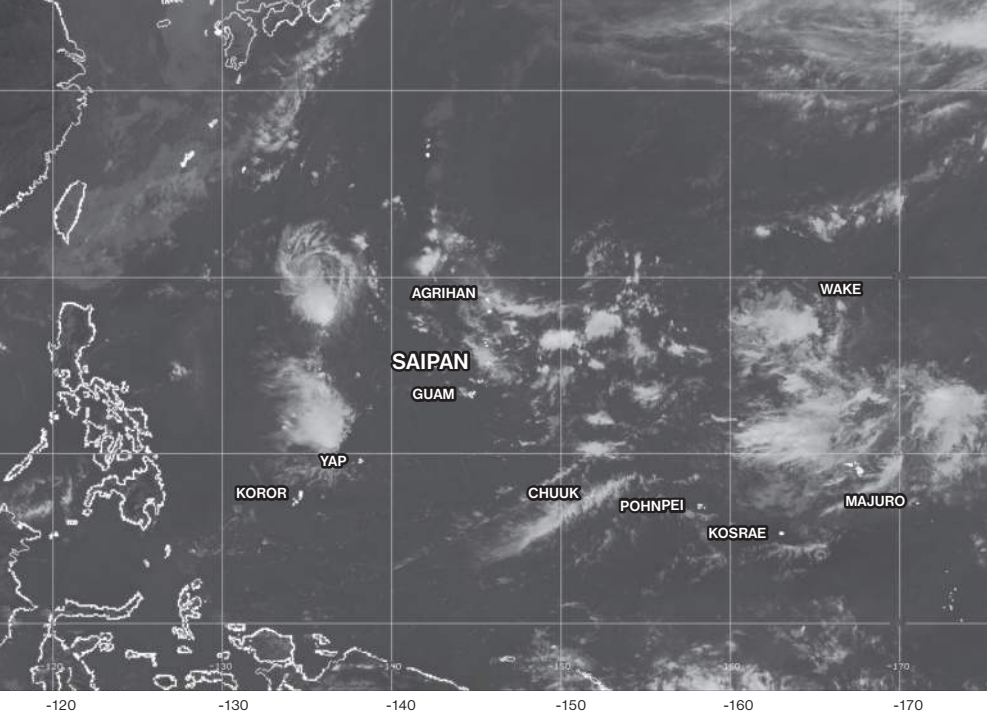
If Congress and Trump do the right thing — and soon.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	87°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:03 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light easterly winds and isolated showers prevail over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Palau	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 50°	
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 57°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	88° / 79°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	88° / 75°	
London	Rain	64° / 61°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 68°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	85° / 76°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	78° / 62°	
Osaka	Sunny	82° / 63°	
Paris	Rain	70° / 55°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	77° / 70°	
Rome	Thunderstorm	79° / 59°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	92° / 62°	
San Francisco	Sunny	78° / 57°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	81° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	81° / 61°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.63	
9:28 AM	LOW TIDE	0.03	
5:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82	
10:28 PM	LOW TIDE	1.20	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:07 AM	2:28 PM	-
Wednesday	2:08 AM	3:23 PM	-
Thursday	3:11 AM	4:17 PM	-
Friday	4:14 AM	5:08 PM	-
Saturday	5:16 AM	5:57 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA1747:30am	8:07am	Daily	
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
BC802	4:45pm	7:30pm	Sep 20 to 22	BC801	10:00am	2:40pm	Sep 20 to 22
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily				
GUAM TO ROTA							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily				
SAIPAN TO TINIAN							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily				
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily				

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

CSS-15 sailors build swing set for school

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kelsey J. Hockenberger



MANGILAO, Guam—Electronics Technician (Nuclear) Seaman Travis Parks, assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen (CSS-15), from Chattanooga, Tenn., shovels dirt into a wheelbarrow during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten. During the COM-REL, nine Sailors assigned to CSS-15 built a swing set for the school's playground. CSS-15 staff is responsible for providing training, material and personnel readiness support to four Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine commands at Polaris Point, Naval Base Guam.



Senior Chief Yeoman Reenita Muguy, assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen (CSS-15), from Yap Island, Federated States of Micronesia, works the soil during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.



Yeoman (Submarine) 2nd Class Christian Price (left), from Waldorf, Md., and Torpedoman 2nd Class Curtis Branz, from Osburn, Idaho, both assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen (CSS-15), shovel dirt into a wheelbarrow during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.



Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Patrick Trevino, assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen, from Versailles, Ky., shovels dirt into a wheelbarrow during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.

Chief Machinists Mate (Nuclear) David Begley (left), from Duluth, Ga., and Torpedoman 2nd Class Curtis Branz, from Osburn, Idaho, both assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen, assemble a swing set during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.



Senior Chief Yeoman Reenita Muguy, from Yap Island, Federated States of Micronesia, and Machinist Mate (Nuclear) 2nd Class Daniel Webster, from Denver, both assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen (CSS-15), dig holes in the soil during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.

Yeoman (Submarine) 2nd Class Christian Price (left), from Waldorf, Md., and Chief Navy Counselor Rodney Jones, from Pensacola, Fla., both assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen (CSS-15), assemble a swing set during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.



Chief Machinists Mate (Nuclear) David Begley, assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen (CSS-15), from Duluth, Ga., assembles a swing during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.



Chief Machinists Mate (Nuclear) David Begley, assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen (CSS-15), from Duluth, Ga., assembles a swing during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.



Chief Machinists Mate (Nuclear) David Begley, assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Fifteen, from Duluth, Ga., shovels dirt into a wheelbarrow during a community relations project at the Infant of Prague Catholic Nursery and Kindergarten.

Business

CHA BISTRO SAIPAN

Another go-to place for island food



By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Cha Bistro Saipan opened last April and is a welcome addition to the very short list of dining establishments serving genuine local cuisine on island.

Executive chef Joseph Deleon Guerrero opened the bistro—or small restaurant—a month after returning to Saipan from New York where he studied at the Culinary Institute of America.

Deleon Guerrero, who used to work at Hyatt Regency Saipan, said Cha Bistro is eager to provide a different dining option for Saipan palates pinning for new food experiences.

“We want to introduce some food that we don’t usually get

to try on island. We serve contemporary island cuisine. Cha Bistro is different from other restaurants because we tie local flavors and produce into all of our dishes,” said Deleon Guerrero.

At Cha Bistro, Deleon Guerrero and his staff prepare and cook everything from scratch.

“We are also a 100% scratch kitchen. Meaning we make everything in-house. From marinades to dressing to breads,” he said.

So far, Cha Bistro has gotten a good reception from locals and tourists alike in its short five months of operation.

“Our customers have been very supportive of us and we’re very encouraged by it

Cha Bistro Saipan’s garlic butter shrimp.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Cha Bistro Saipan opened just last April and is a welcome addition to the island’s very short list of restaurants serving genuine local cuisine.

since, of course, our customers are the most important part of the restaurant business,” said Deleon Guerrero.

Bestsellers at one of the newest restaurants on Saipan are Cha Bistro’s garlic butter shrimp for its red rice plates and the bacon, avocado, and pear panini on taro bread.

While there are currently no promotions ongoing, Deleon Guerrero said Cha Bistro currently offers a 20% local discount with a valid local ID.

Aside from the usual growing pains of birthing a new restaurant on Saipan, the ex-



Cha Bistro Saipan’s tuna poke.

ecutive chef said one of their biggest challenge is staffing.

The biggest fulfillment of running a restaurant, meanwhile, comes “every day when we are able to provide good food to our guests and they can enjoy it. There is no other feeling when someone enjoys the food that you make,” said Deleon Guerrero.

Cha Bistro comfortably sits

60 and is located on the second floor of Cha Café along Beach Road in Garapan. It is open Monday to Friday from 11:30am to 2pm. Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 2pm with ala carte brunch service.

For more information and for reservations, call 233-2421 or reach them on Facebook (Cha Bistro Saipan) or Instagram (@chabistrosaipan).



Tour company Thomas Cook collapses, global bookings canceled

LONDON (AP)—Long-time British tour company Thomas Cook collapsed after failing to secure rescue funding, and travel bookings for its more than 600,000 global vacationers were canceled early Monday.

The British government said the return of the firm’s 150,000 British customers now abroad would be the largest repatriation in its peacetime history. The process began Monday and officials warned that delays are inevitable.

The Civil Aviation Authority said Thomas Cook has ceased trading, its four airlines will be grounded, and its 21,000 employees in 16 countries, including 9,000 in the UK, will lose their jobs. The company several

months ago had blamed a slowdown in bookings because of Brexit uncertainty for contributing to its crushing debt burden.

The 178-year-old company had said Friday it was seeking 200 million pounds (\$250 million) to avoid going bust and was in weekend talks with shareholders and creditors to stave off failure. The prominent firm, whose airliners were a familiar sight in many parts of the world, also operated around 600 UK travel stores.

The company’s chief executive Peter Fankhauser said, “This marks a deeply sad day for the company which pioneered package holidays and made travel possible for millions of people around the world.”

He said a deal had been “largely agreed” but that “an additional facility” requested in the last few days presented an insurmountable challenge but provided no further details.

“I would like to apologize to our millions of customers, and thousands of employees,” he said in a statement.

Britain’s CAA said it had arranged an aircraft fleet for the complex British repatriation effort, which is expected to last two weeks.

“Due to the significant scale of the situation, some disruption is inevitable, but the Civil Aviation Authority will endeavor to get people home as close as possible to their planned dates,” the aviation authority said in a statement.

Describing the repatria-

tion plan, British Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said dozens of charter planes, from as far afield as Malaysia, had been hired to fly customers home free of charge. He said hundreds of people were staffing call centers and airport operations centers.

“The task is enormous, the biggest peacetime repatriation in UK history. So there are bound to be problems and delays,” he said.

A website set up by the aviation authority to aid the firm’s customers crashed shortly after the company collapse was announced.

Unions representing the Thomas Cook staff had urged the British government to intervene to prop up Thomas Cook to protect jobs and the traveling public.

United Auto Workers strike against GM may be headed to day 8

NEW YORK (AP)—A strike against General Motors by 49,000 auto workers appears headed to an eighth day.

Bargainers were meeting all day Sunday at GM’s headquarters in downtown Detroit. “They’re still talking,” United Auto Workers union spokesman Brian Rothenberg said.

The workers left their jobs early Monday after their four-year contract with the company expired.

They’re seeking a bigger slice of GM’s profits, products to manufacture at plants GM wants to close, a path to permanent jobs for temporary workers and other items.

GM wants to lower its labor costs so they’re closer to the compensation for workers at U.S. factories owned by foreign automakers. Most UAW production workers make about \$30 per hour. GM’s labor cost including benefits is \$63 per hour while the foreign companies pay about \$50, according to the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think tank.

Democrats have been quick to back United Auto Workers

in their strike against General Motors, a union they long have aligned with politically. The Republican response has been muted.

Presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren visited the striking workers on Sunday at the GM Detroit-Hamtramck plant.

“GM is demonstrating that it has no loyalty to workers in America Their only loyalty is to their bottom line, and if they can save a nickel by moving jobs to Mexico or to Asia or anywhere else on this planet, they will do it,” Warren said.

Meanwhile, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden visited and spoke with striking auto workers in Kansas City, Kansas.

The strike is playing out as a federal corruption investigation against top UAW officials widens. The FBI raided UAW President Gary Jones’ suburban Detroit home last month and prosecutors have charged 11 people in the investigation so far, leading many of the 49,000 workers nationwide to question whether leaders have their backs.

Nation

Trump suggests he raised Bidens with Ukraine's president

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump suggested Sunday that he raised former Vice President Joe Biden and Biden's son in a summer phone call with Ukraine's new leader, as Democrats pressed for investigations into whether Trump improperly used his office to try to dig up damaging information about a political rival.

Trump told reporters that the July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was "congratulatory" and focused on corruption in the East European nation. In his remarks to reporters, he then raised Biden as an example, although there is no evidence of wrongdoing by Biden or his son Hunter, who was on

the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

"It was largely the fact that we don't want our people, like Vice President Biden and his son, creating to the corruption already in the Ukraine," Trump said as he left the White House for a trip to Texas.

Biden, who is among the front-runners for the Democratic presidential nomination, accused Trump of making a baseless political smear.

The matter has sparked a fierce debate over whether Trump misused his office for political gain and whether his administration is withholding from Congress critical information about his actions. The incident is part of a whistleblower complaint, but the act-

ing director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, has refused to share details with lawmakers, citing presidential privilege.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has resisted calls for impeachment for other alleged Trump transgressions, said Sunday that unless Maguire provides information to Congress, administration officials "will be entering a grave new chapter of lawlessness which will take us into a

whole new stage of investigation."

Another impeachment holdout so far, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" that "we may very well have crossed the Rubicon here."

A person familiar with the matter has told The Associated Press that Trump urged Zelenskyy to investigate Hunter Biden. The person wasn't

authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Ukraine's got a lot of problems," Trump said at the White House. "The new president is saying that he's going to be able to rid the country of corruption and I said that would be a great thing. We had a great conversation. We had a conversation on many things."

Hunter Biden was hired by the Ukrainian gas company Burisma Holdings in

April 2014, two months after Ukraine's Russia-friendly president was ousted by protesters and as his father was heavily involved in U.S. efforts to support the new pro-Western government and its pledge to fight corruption. The hiring of the younger Biden immediately raised concerns that the Ukrainian firm, whose owner was a political ally of the ousted president, was seeking to gain influence with the Obama administration.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bus driver in Utah crash that killed 4 Chinese was 1st trip

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The driver of a tour bus that crashed near a national park in Utah, killing four Chinese tourists and injuring dozens more, was making his first trip for a company that only been in business for a short time, investigators said Sunday. The National Transportation Safety Board is researching the driver's background, license qualification and medical history, said Pete Kotowski, an investigator-in-charge for the agency, at a news conference Sunday night. He didn't disclose the driver's name but said he's from California. The agency has not yet interviewed him. The driver is U.S. citizen and he didn't appear to be intoxicated, the Utah Highway Patrol said previously. The NTSB is also researching the bus company's inspection history, hiring practices and corporate safety culture, Kotowski said. The company, called America Shengjia Inc., based in Ontario, California, is cooperating with investigators, he said.

3 dead, 4 hospitalized in suspected drug overdose

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Three people died and four others were hospitalized early Sunday in what police said appeared to be a mass drug overdose. The victims, all men, appear to have taken narcotics at the same time and in the same place in an apartment on Pittsburgh's South Side, authorities said. It wasn't immediately clear

which drug or combination of drugs was involved. Investigators were interviewing survivors at the hospital. All of the victims were wearing orange paper bands on their wrists. Police determined the victims initially went to a venue together, then headed to the apartment where they overdosed. "To be clear, this was not a case of a tainted drug being passed around or distributed in large volume at a large venue which could have affected even more people. It appears to have been isolated to a single location," the Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety said in a statement. "However, police are concerned about a tainted, potentially deadly batch of drugs in the community."

Police: 6 shot and wounded during fight in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Authorities say someone who was involved in a fight between two groups of youths outside a downtown Indianapolis shopping mall overnight opened fire and wounded six people before he fled the scene. Police said Sunday that the shooting happened about 11 p.m. Saturday along a street near the Circle Centre Mall and several restaurants. They say three of the six people shot are minors and that two of the six were hospitalized in critical condition. The others suffered less serious wounds. Police say investigators are searching a young male who they describe as a person of interest in the case. They say they don't believe it was a "randomly targeted shooting."



President Donald Trump speaks during an event with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison at Pratt Industries, Sunday, Sept 22, 2019, in Wapakoneta, Ohio. AP

A New York diocese filed for bankruptcy. Will others follow?

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester was the first in New York to seek bankruptcy protection under the weight of new sexual misconduct lawsuits, but lawyers and church leaders say it may not be the last.

All eight of the state's Roman Catholic dioceses face financial pressures as a result of the state's new Child Victims Act, which temporarily set aside the usual statute of limitations for lawsuits to give victims of childhood sexual abuse a year to pursue even decades-old claims.

More than 400 cases have been brought against the dioceses since Aug. 14, when the law's one-year "look back" period for such suits began.

Representatives from the dioceses of Buffalo, Rockville Centre, Albany and Ogdensburg told The Associated Press they haven't decided as they consult with legal, finan-

cial and insurance experts.

"While we evaluate our options, filing for bankruptcy protection remains one of those options," said Darcy Fargo, spokeswoman for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, which covers the rural, northernmost tip of the state.

Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone has said he is close to deciding whether to file for bankruptcy protection or litigate the nearly 140 new lawsuits his diocese is facing.

The Diocese of Albany, meanwhile, faces more than 30 lawsuits so far, but spokeswoman Mary DeTurris Poust said the diocese won't make any decision until "the full financial scope" of the Child Victims Act is known.

The Diocese of Rochester sought bankruptcy court protection Sept. 12 because of the new wave of lawsuits, becoming the 20th Roman Catholic diocese to do so nationwide in a sexual abuse

reckoning that has now stretched on for 17 years.

Bankruptcy proceedings don't immunize dioceses from lawsuits, but they put claims under the supervision of a federal bankruptcy judge and require victims to get in line with all other potential church creditors. Plaintiffs' attorneys say proceedings also can limit their access to records exposing additional wrongdoing by priests or senior church officials who failed to act against suspected abusers.

With New York's window for lawsuits open until next August, attorney Michael Pfau, who has represented abuse victims in church bankruptcies outside New York, said additional bankruptcies are likely.

Such filings are usually met with distrust by claimants, Pfau said, but can have positive results.

"Bankruptcy in the context of the Catholic Church is a

misunderstood thing, in that this isn't a liquidation, it's a reorganization," Pfau said. "The Catholic Church in Rochester will continue. Its mission won't be affected. It won't sell churches and schools and a hospital, but it will be a painful process for them, a self-inflicted painful process."

The Rochester diocese's bankruptcy filing outraged the Senate sponsor of the Child Victims Act, Brad Hoylman, who said victims he has spoken to are motivated more by a sense of justice than money. A silver lining, he said, is that any diocese that seeks bankruptcy protection will see its assets scrutinized.

"It will lead to an accounting of the wealth of these institutions," he said.

Rochester's bishop, Salvatore Matano, called the decision to file for bankruptcy painful but said it was the best way to ensure all victims would be compensated.

Asia

HK protesters trample Chinese flag, set street fires

HONG KONG (AP)—Protesters in Hong Kong trampled a Chinese flag, vandalized two subway stations and set at least two street fires on Sunday, as pro-democracy demonstrations took a violent turn once again.

The day's action began peacefully, as protesters filled a shopping mall and, in a new twist, folded paper "origami" cranes that they tied onto a large rigging they assembled in the mall in the outlying Shatin district.

Some put a Chinese flag on the floor and took turns running over it, before defacing it and putting it in a dumpster outside, which they then pushed into a nearby river.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests, now in their fourth month, have often descended into violence late in the day and at night. A hardcore group of protesters says the extreme actions are needed to get the government's attention. On Saturday, police used tear gas and rubber rounds against protesters who threw gasoline bombs toward them and set fires in streets.

As Sunday's protest at Shatin New Town Plaza wound down, some protesters attacked a subway station connected to the mall. They jumped up to smash overhead surveillance cameras, used hammers to knock ticket sensors off gates and spray-painted and broke the screens of ticket machines, using umbrellas to shield their identities.

Riot police arrived following the attack and guarded



the station after it was closed, with a metal grill pulled down to block entry.

Outside, protesters built a barricade across a street near the mall, piled what appeared to be palm fronds on top and set them on fire.

Police fired tear gas as they tried to advance on the protesters, who took positions behind a wall of handheld umbrellas before ending their demonstration.

Earlier, the protesters at the mall chanted slogans and sang a song that has become their anthem, backed by a small group playing on woodwind and

brass instruments through their masks. Many lined the balustrades of the three higher floors overlooking where others gathered in the wide space below.

A series of small skirmishes broke out Sunday night. Protesters vandalized the Kwai Fong subway station, which was then closed. They also set a street fire in the city's Mong Kok area that firefighters put out.

Hong Kong's leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, has agreed to withdraw an extradition bill that sparked the protests in early June. But the anti-government protesters are

pressing other demands, including fully democratic elections in the semiautonomous Chinese territory and an independent investigation of complaints about police violence during earlier demonstrations.

Protesters say Beijing and Lam's government are eroding the "high degree of autonomy" and Western-style civil liberties promised to the former British colony when it was returned to China in 1997.

The unending protests are an embarrassment for China's Communist Party ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of its 70th anni-

versary in power. Hong Kong's government has canceled a fireworks display that day, citing concern for public safety.

AP
Protesters vandalize a Chinese national flag during a protest at a mall in Hong Kong on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

versary in power. Hong Kong's government has canceled a fireworks display that day, citing concern for public safety.

On Sunday, transit authorities closed two stations on the airport express train to guard against a possible disruption of transportation to the transportation hub, but none materialized.

Passengers boarding the train were told via onboard announcements that it would make fewer stops than usual, with no mention of the protests. Orange tape blocked the turnstiles at the empty Kowloon station, and police clutching riot helmets greeted arriving passengers at the Hong Kong terminus.

Some airport bus routes were also suspended. Passengers were advised to leave sufficient time to reach the airport.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Powerful typhoon causes minor injuries, damage in S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea

(AP)—A powerful typhoon battered southern South Korea, injuring 26 people and knocking out power to about 27,790 houses, officials said Monday. Typhoon Tapah earlier lashed parts of Japan's southern islands with heavy rains and winds that caused flooding and some minor injuries. South Korea's interior ministry said Monday the typhoon also caused strong winds and heavy rainfall in southern South Korean cities and towns on Sunday and Monday. The storm did not make landfall on the peninsula as it moved northeast and weakened Monday. The ministry said one person was hurt seriously and the 25 others had minor injuries. Some South Korean media had reported three deaths, but the ministry said none of those deaths was caused by the typhoon. It flooded streets, damaged houses, and led to about 250 flight cancellations in 11 airports in South Korea, according to the ministry report. South Korean weather officials said the typhoon likely caused light rain in eastern coastal towns in North Korea but won't likely cause damage there. Typhoon Tapah hit the southern Japanese island of Okinawa on Friday and Saturday and left 18 people with

minor injuries. The storm disrupted air and train travel in the region during what is a three-day holiday weekend.

Pakistan bus crash kills 26; brakes fail on mountain road

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A

bus crash in northern Pakistan killed 26 people Sunday after its brakes failed on a winding mountain road, police said. Another 20 passengers were injured when the bus smashed head-on into a dirt embankment, said Abdul Wakil, a local police officer. Such road accidents are common in Pakistan, where motorists largely disregard traffic rules and safety standards on worn-out roads. Last month, a speeding bus fell off a mountainous road into a river in the northwest, killing 24 passengers. Rescue efforts were hampered Sunday by the remote terrain near the town of Chilas on the route between the cities of Rawalpindi and Skardu. That's in the Gilgit-Baltistan area, part of the larger Kashmir region. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan, and has been the sight of recent tensions. An army statement said ten soldiers were among those killed in the crash. Wakil said two of the injured had died after being taken to the hospital, and that all the dead and injured had been evacuated to hospitals from the crash site.

Haze from Indonesian fires now affecting PH

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—Haze blown by monsoon winds from fires in Indonesia has begun affecting some areas of the Philippines and raised concerns about aviation safety and possible health risks, an official said Friday.

Landrico Dalida Jr., the deputy administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, said light to moderate haze was covering the southern city of Zamboanga, the central cities of Cebu and Dumaguete and the western province of Palawan. Authorities were verifying other areas that might also be affected, he said.

"It's visible, meaning there are particles that are really coming from those areas in Indonesia and they reach us," Dalida said.

If visibility is affected, airport officials and airlines may cancel

flights because of safety concerns. Dalida advised people to wear masks if the haze worsens.

Officials of the Environmental Management Bureau, in charge of pollution prevention and control, said its regional offices have relayed information to local officials in haze-hit areas to enable them to advise the public, especially people with respiratory ailments, to stay indoors if conditions worsen.

Indonesia's Disaster Mitigation Agency said the number of hotspots has been rising in the past week and reached 5,086 on Friday, despite government efforts to battle the fires and control the haze.

The agency recorded 1,443 hotspots in Central Kalimantan province on Borneo, an island which is divided among Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.

It said 99% of the hotspots were caused by deliberately set fires.

Firefighting efforts involve 52 helicopters dropping 270 million liters (71.3 million gallons) of water and 163 tons of salt for cloud seeding.

Indonesian authorities have deployed more than 29,000 people to fight the fires, which have razed more than 328,700 hectares (812,000 acres) of land across the nation, with more than half in the provinces of Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan.

The six provinces which have a combined population of more than 23 million have declared an emergency since the fires began in February.

National police spokesman Muhammad Iqbal said police have arrested 249 people suspected of starting some of the fires. Those arrested could be prosecuted under an environmental protection law that provides for a maximum 10-

year prison sentence for setting fires to clear land.

Forestry and Environment Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar said the ministry is investigating 370 plantation companies suspected of intentionally setting fires for new planting, including 103 in Riau province.

She said authorities have sealed off land owned by at least 52 companies in the past week for investigation after fires were found there, including a Singaporean-based company and four firms affiliated with a Malaysian palm oil corporate group.

Indonesia's fires are an annual problem that strains relations with neighboring countries. The smoke from the fires has blanketed parts of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and southern Thailand in a noxious haze. The fires are often started by smallholders and plantation owners to clear land for planting.

World

'Deficit of trust': At UN, leaders of a warming world gather

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The planet is getting hotter, and tackling that climate peril will grab the spotlight as world leaders gather for their annual meeting at the United Nations this week facing an undeniable backdrop: rising tensions from the Persian Gulf to Afghanistan and increasing nationalism, inequality and intolerance.

Growing fear of military action, especially in response to recent attacks on Saudi oil installations that are key to world energy supplies, hangs over this year's General Assembly gathering. That unease is exacerbated by global conflicts and crises from Syria and Yemen to Venezuela, from disputes between Israel and the Palestinians to the Pakistan-India stand-off over Kashmir.

All eyes will be watching presidents Donald Trump of the United States and Hassan Rouhani of Iran, whose countries are at the forefront of escalating tensions, to see if they can reduce fears of a confrontation that could impact the Mideast and far beyond. Whether the two will even meet remains in serious doubt.

"Our fraying world needs international cooperation more than ever, but simply saying it will not make it happen," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "Let's face it: We have no time to lose."



Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg, right, shakes hands with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, during the Youth Climate Summit at United Nations headquarters, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019.

This year's General Assembly session, which starts Tuesday and ends Sept. 30, has attracted world leaders from 136 of the 193 U.N. member nations. That large turnout reflects a growing global focus on addressing climate change and the perilous state of peace and security.

Other countries will be represented by ministers and vice presidents—except Afghanistan, whose leaders are in a hotly contested presidential campaign ahead of Sept. 28 elections, and North Korea, which downgraded its representation from a minister to, likely, its U.N. ambassador. Saudi Ara-

bian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled plans to attend and are sending ministers.

Last week, Guterres repeated warnings that "tensions are boiling over." The world, he said, "is at a critical moment on several fronts—the climate emergency, rising inequality, an increase in hatred and intolerance as well as an alarming number of peace and security challenges."

With so many monarchs, presidents and prime ministers at the U.N. this year, "we have a chance to advance diplomacy for peace," Guterres said. "This is the moment to cool tensions."

Whether that happens remains to be seen. Many diplomats aren't optimistic.

"It's a challenging time for the United Nations," said China's U.N. ambassador, Zhang Jun, whose nation is embroiled

in a protracted dispute with the United States over tariffs. "We are faced with rising of unilateralism, protectionism, and we are faced with global challenges like climate change, like terrorism, like cybersecurity."

"More importantly," he said, "we are faced with a deficit of trust."

As the world's second-largest economy and a member of the U.N. Security Council, "China firmly defends multilateralism, and China firmly supports the United Nations," Zhang said Friday.

But divisions among the five council members—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France—have paralyzed action on the eight-year conflict in Syria and other global crises. On global warming, the Trump administration remains at odds with many countries.

This year, the U.N. has stocked the agenda with a "Youth Climate Summit" ahead of a full-on climate summit for world leaders on Monday. That's all happening before the leaders hold their annual meeting in the horseshoe-shaped General Assembly hall starting Tuesday morning.

Guterres will give his state-of-the-world address at the opening, immediately followed by speeches from Trump and other leaders including the presidents of Brazil, Egypt and Turkey. Iran's Rouhani is scheduled to address the assembly Wednesday morning.

Arab lawmakers in Israel endorse Gantz for prime minister

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Arab bloc in Israel's parliament abandoned its usual hands-off stance Sunday and endorsed former military chief Benny Gantz for prime minister, potentially giving him the edge over hard-line incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu.

The historic move marked the first time in nearly three decades that the Arab parties backed a candidate for prime minister, reflecting their contempt for Netanyahu, who was accused of fomenting hatred of the Arabs during his re-election campaign.

"Benny Gantz is not our cup of tea," said Arab lawmaker Ahmad Tibi. "But we promised our constituents that we would do everything to topple Netanyahu, and the default here is recommending Benny Gantz."

It will be up to Israeli President Reuven Rivlin to decide which candidate should be given the chance to form a coalition government and serve as prime minister—a usually pro forma task made difficult this time by last

week's deadlocked parliamentary elections.

Neither Gantz, the leader of the centrist Blue and White party, nor Netanyahu, head of the conservative Likud movement, has a majority in the 120-seat Knesset, or 61 members. But with the backing of the Arab parties, Gantz gained a slight advantage. He could have as many as 57 backers, compared with Netanyahu's 55.

Maverick politician Avigdor Lieberman, head of the mid-size Yisrael Beiteinu party, controls the final eight seats, making him the key powerbroker. But he announced Sunday that he isn't endorsing either candidate.

The endorsement by the Joint List, a bloc of four small Arab parties that controls 13 seats, marked a turning point in Israeli politics. Arab parties have traditionally refrained from endorsing a candidate for prime minister, and they have never sat in a coalition government, not wanting to be seen as legitimizing Israeli policies.

Although many Israeli Arabs remain angry at Gantz for leading the military's devastating war against Gaza militants in 2014, their fury toward Netanyahu runs much deeper. Netanyahu's campaign repeatedly accused the Arabs of trying to "steal" the election, drawing accusations of racism and incitement.

There is also deep-seated anger over a law passed by Netanyahu's government in 2018 that declared Israel to be the nation-state of the Jewish people. Arabs believe the law codifies discrimination.

Though the Arab parties are still expected to stay out of Gantz's future government, their endorsement reflects a growing desire of Israel's large Arab minority to take a more active role in shaping the country.

In an op-ed piece in The New York Times, Ayman Odeh, the leader of the Joint List, argued that his move should end Netanyahu's political career and provide a watershed moment for Israel's Arab minority.

UN agency: Tanzania not sharing details on Ebola-like cases

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—The World Health Organization has issued an unusual statement raising questions about whether Tanzania is covering up possible cases of the deadly Ebola virus, a significant cause for concern during a regional outbreak that has been declared a rare global health emergency.

The statement Saturday says Tanzania's government "despite several requests" is refusing to share the results of its investigations into a number of patients with Ebola-like symptoms and is refusing to ship patient samples to an outside WHO partner lab.

Tanzania's government, which has said it has no Ebola cases, could not immediately be reached for comment Sunday. The cases would be the first-ever Ebola infections confirmed in the East African country.

The United Nations health agency says it was made

aware on Sept. 10 of the death in Tanzania's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam, of a patient suspected to have Ebola. A day later, it received unofficial reports that an Ebola test had come back positive. On Thursday, it received unofficial reports that a contact of the patient, who had traveled widely in the country, was sick and hospitalized.

A rapid response is crucial in containing Ebola, which can be fatal in up to 90% of cases and is most often spread by close contact with bodily fluids of people exhibiting symptoms or with contaminated objects.

The WHO statement said the lack of information from Tanzania made it difficult to assess potential risks.

The Ebola outbreak based in neighboring Congo has infected over 3,000 people and killed nearly 2,000 of them. A few cases have been confirmed in neighboring Uganda as well, and other neighboring

countries have been preparing for the outbreak's possible spread.

This is not the first time health officials have raised serious questions about the suspected Tanzania cases. On Monday, the U.S. health and human services secretary, Alex Azar, told reporters in Uganda that he and others were "very concerned about the lack of transparency" in Tanzania.

Critics have shown increasing alarm as Tanzanian President John Magufuli's government has restricted access to key information and cracked down on perceived dissent. Lawmakers recently approved an amendment to a statistics law to make it a crime to distribute information not sanctioned by the government or which contradicts the government.

The World Bank was among those expressing concern at that amendment.

Focus

By LISA MARIE PANE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke's recent vow to take away people's AR-15 and AK-47 rifles raised one big question: How is it possible to round up the millions of such guns that exist in the United States?

The number of AR-15 and AK-47s in the U.S. is estimated at a staggering 16 million, creating logistical challenges to take them out of circulation. Many gun owners are also unwilling to turn over the weapons, and if the government offered to buy them all back at face value, the price tag could easily run into the billions of dollars.

O'Rourke's pointed declaration during a recent debate—"Hell yes, we're gonna take your AR-15, your AK-47"—stoked longstanding fears among gun owners that Democrats are less interested in safety or finding a middle ground, and just want to confiscate guns. Even some gun-control advocates aren't so sure that confiscating firearms will work.

"In some regards, this horse is out of the barn," said David Chipman, a retired agent with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and now the senior policy adviser for the Giffords group. "For years we've allowed these to be sold."

O'Rourke's remarks came

in the wake of several high-profile shootings, including two in his home state of Texas that involved AR- or AK-style guns, which resemble military-style weapons and generally carry more rounds than regular rifles. A summer of carnage was marked by shootings in Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; and in a 10-mile stretch between Midland and Odessa, Texas. In all, more than 40 people were killed and about 100 were wounded in the attacks.

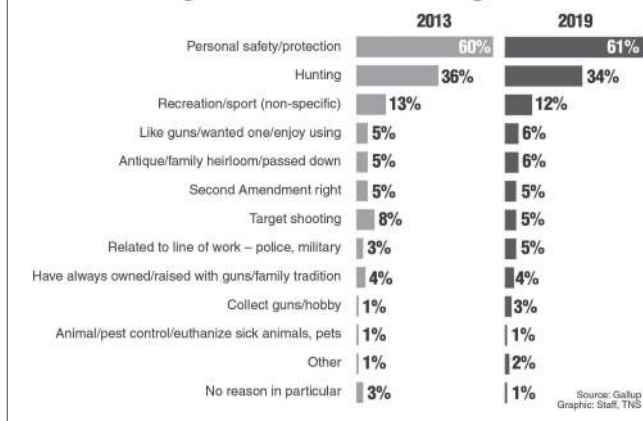
The prospect of significant gun measures has faded in recent weeks under the Republican-controlled Senate and President Donald Trump, and Democratic candidates have offered a range of proposals for what they would do on guns if elected president.

O'Rourke believes that most people would follow the law and turn their weapons in under his proposal for a mandatory buyback program and assault weapons ban. He also wants to outlaw high-capacity magazines and expand background checks.

Cory Booker has proposed a similar program that would involve civil penalties for those who fail to comply and hand in their AR-15s. They would not be subject to criminal offenses, however.

There is a precedent for the ideas proposed by O'Rourke and Booker, as difficult as they

The reasons gun owners want their guns



would be to implement.

The Trump administration recently banned bump stocks—devices that allow semiautomatic long guns to mimic fully automatic fire—and ordered owners to turn them in to be destroyed. But there were only about a half million of those devices, and they cost far less than an AR, which can run upwards of \$1,000 or more. The ban was largely based on an honor system, though Washington state did offer a buyback program that quickly exhausted the \$150,000 set aside to shell out \$150 each device turned in.

In 1994, then-President Bill Clinton enacted an assault weapons ban, at a time when there were an estimated 1.5 million of them in circulation. Existing owners were allowed to keep them, however, and once the ban expired a de-

cade later, sales resumed and boomed.

Machine guns like M-16s were outlawed by Congress in 1986, but they can still be owned under a tightly regulated process. Small numbers remain in circulation, largely because of the restrictions.

Democratic candidates pushing gun buybacks have also pointed to similar moves in Australia and New Zealand. However, the number of AR-style long guns in those countries pales in comparison to the United States, and neither has gun rights enshrined in their constitutions.

Chipman believes an assault weapon ban should be handled similar to the machine gun rules, requiring they be registered and heavily regulated but not confiscated.

"I think it would be far more likely that we would

find more of the weapons under comprehensive regulation by the government than sort of a forced buyback ban scenario," he said.

There's also the optics of the government taking away guns, presenting another challenge for the Democratic proposals.

The idea of outlawing and then rounding up firearms alarmed many gun owners who believe it will not solve the problem of gun violence and would only serve to take firearms away from law-abiding Americans. They point out that while AR-style guns have been used in some high-profile mass shootings, most gun deaths involve handguns.

"Once you start talking about taking guns away, especially legally owned firearms by responsible gun owners, you're just going to alienate a whole huge portion of American citizens. They're just not going to stand for that," said Chris Waltz, the president and CEO of AR-15 Gun Owners of America. "This is what they feared."

The marketplace for the guns has shifted as well. Connecticut-based gunmaker Colt announced last week it was ceasing production of AR-15 style rifles for the civilian market, citing a saturated market. The company will keep making the guns for law enforcement, which is a big portion of the market.

Of the estimated 16 million AR-style guns that are in circulation, about half of them are owned by current or former members of the military or law enforcement, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Then, there are the logistics of actually getting millions of firearms handed over. Some law enforcement experts question whether a mass confiscation of firearms could be done effectively or safely.

Even some self-identified liberals who own firearms question the legality of gun confiscation and even the practicality.

"Constitutional rights aren't based on what you like. What's the slippery slope of this?" said Lara C. Smith, the national spokeswoman for the Liberal Gun Club, a nonprofit group of liberal gun owners. "If they're going to take away these rights, what other rights are they going to take away?"

Smith, who lives in San Diego and owns an AR-15, contends that calls for outlawing AR-style firearms are based on ignorance and misunderstanding. The rifles are simply modular, she said, capable of being customized with different grips, adjustable stocks and scopes, for example—features that might give it a military-style appearance, but do not make it any more lethal than any other firearm.

In gun buyback talk, how do you round up so many weapons?



AP
Friends and members of the Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia take part on a walk Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, to honor those lost to gun-related homicides and to demand stronger and more effective gun laws and regulations.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

2020 Ford Escape, a vehicle that represents the heart of America

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—

There's a smug mindset at work in America that thinks the middle ground is no longer good enough. Listen to politicians, talking heads, celebrities, fashionistas and bloggers, and you'll see it. Extremism is taking hold in every facet of our lives, from our music to our TV shows, the politicians we are asked to vote for and even the clothes we're expected to wear.

Thankfully, the middle ground holds, and it's a wonderful place to be. And, believe it or not, there's a crossover SUV that embraces that American heart: the 2020 Ford Escape.

Welcome the fourth generation of the Ford Escape, offered for 2020 with two gasoline-powered drivelines and

a new hybrid model. Totally redesigned for the new model year and wrapped in tastefully aerodynamic sheet metal, the new Escape wears variations of modern Ford styling cues, including a trapezoidal grille capped by the brand's classic blue oval badge. It's far more inviting than the third generation's awkwardly off-putting angular design motif, one that lived on well past its sell-by date.

Pleasingly modern and handsome, the Escape's cabin lacks the adolescent Game-boy design feel prevalent in too many cars these days. Its grown up, with a modern, sophisticated instrument panel, anchored by a center mounted flatscreen — 4.2 inches on S models, 8 inches on others — and a dazzling full-color 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster in front of the driver. As in other Fords, the user

interface is easy to figure out. Nevertheless, material quality is nothing special, and there's not much difference in feel regardless of trim level, be it S, SE, SE Sport, SEL and Titanium. Also, some buyers may find the push-button starter hard to reach, as it's placed on an angled part of the instrument panel. Others may find the rotary transmission dial takes some getting used to, but it frees up a lot of interior space.

But there's much to admire, with comfortably high seats with good head and legroom up front and generous rear seat legroom, superior to many competitors. Credit the rear seat that has six inches of fore-and-aft seat travel to adjust for more people or more cargo. Once underway, the cabin is very quiet with negligible wind or road noise, except on the very worst surfaces thanks to insulated front window glass.

Power comes from three different drivelines.

A 1.5-liter turbocharged three-cylinder engine and eight-speed automatic are standard on base S, SE and SEL models. Rated at 181 horsepower and 190 pound-feet of torque, it's offered with



The 2020 Ford Escape. TNS

front-wheel or all-wheel drive. Optional on the SEL and standard on the Titanium is SEL a 2.0-liter EcoBoost four-cylinder engine rated at 250 horsepower and 280 pound-feet of torque. All-wheel drive is standard. Ford also offers new Hybrid models, including a standard and plug-in variant, with a driveline rated at 200 horsepower and mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission.

Performance is satisfactory with the base 1.5-liter engine, and effortless with its larger 2.0-liter sibling. Ironically, the hybrid's 2.5-liter four-cylinder gas engine is the Escape's largest gas engine, but it has a gruff sound that's out of character. That said, performance is satisfying, even in fuel-sipping Eco Mode. And when it comes to filling the Escape's

tank, it won't break the bank — as the Hybrid returned a class-leading 45 mpg without much effort.

Regardless of engine, transmission behavior is exemplary, offering up quick shifts just when you need them. That said, manual mode seemed slow to respond. Body lean is very well controlled, coming on only as you start to reach the limits of adhesion. Steering is nicely weighted, with a touch of road feel, although there seems to be a little too much play on-center. The hybrid's extra weight can be felt in corners, but it enhances the Escape's overall feel. Bump absorption is impressive, with no rebound and little to no body motion over bad surfaces. The Escape feels beautifully balanced and agile, returning a relaxed, refined driving ex-

perience.

As you'd expect, such driver assistance features as blind spot warning, cross-traffic alert, automatic high beams, lane-keeping assist, automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, forward collision warning, a rearview camera, and hill start assist are standard. Parking assist, adaptive cruise control, and evasive steering assist are optional.

The redesigned 2020 Ford Escape has an élan and sophistication that seems to have escaped the previous version. With its handsome, conservative good looks, perfect size and up to date tech package, it should have little trouble reaching buyers before rather than Escape to other brands, not to mention those who find ripped jeans the dumbest fashion statement since the polyester leisure suit.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 Ford Escape

■ Base price: \$24,885
■ Engine: 1.5-liter turbocharged three-cylinder
■ Horsepower/Torque: 181/190
■ EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 27/33 mpg

■ Fuel required: Regular
■ Wheelbase/Length/Width: 106.7/180.5/74.1 inches
■ Cargo capacity: 33.5-65.8 cubic feet
■ Curb weight: 3,299 pounds

MOTORMOUTH: If you have automatic headlight setting, use it

Q: I have seen so many cars with their headlights off driving in the evening and cannot stop wondering about something. There is an auto setting for headlights, and it appears that should be the default so that we don't have to worry about turning the lights on and off.

Should we make it extra hard to switch to the off position? In addition, there is no warning sign on the dashboard when headlights are off in the evening. Is this something we should suggest to automakers?

A: Not all vehicles have automatic headlights, especially older vintages. But I agree that, if your car is so equipped, you should use the

automatic setting. Although there are not reminder lights on the dash indicating that the headlights are off, that task often falls to oncoming motorists who flash theirs.

Q: I read your two columns about the traffic light in the car's rear window. I added a toy traffic light in the rear window of my car, so it is most likely my vehicle that's been seen because I drive in the Chicagoland area. I live in Schaumburg and I put my old toy Buddy L traffic light in my car rear window in 1980s and have moved it when I replaced my cars.

I put this in my car even before cars had the rear third brake light. The yellow

light comes on when I have my foot off any pedal. Red comes on when I brake, and green comes on when my foot is on the gas. I use microswitches on the pedals. I replaced the old Christmas lightbulbs with LEDs. Years ago, a cop did stop me, but he only wanted to know where he could get one, too. I am still looking for another toy traffic light so I can add one to my other car.

A: Very clever. I presume you have checked out hobby shops, especially those specializing in electric trains and accessories. I did a bit of surfing and found one at Bed Bath and Beyond that you may be able to hack. The brand is Theo Klein and it even has

walk/don't walk lights.

Q: B.K. in Chicago noted how regenerative braking is almost one-foot driving. Your left foot is only for the clutch and parking brake. Using both feet in an automatic transmission vehicle lets you depress both pedals at the same time. This will guarantee much longer stopping distance in a panic situation.

What I hate is the flickering brake lights in heavy traffic. You have no idea what the car in front will really do. Or the bright brake lights on while accelerating. It appears that two-foot drivers justify their tailgating causing the rolling yo-yo traffic jams. As heavy as

By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

traffic in Japan can be, it is much less frustrating due to the uniform consistent behavior by the drivers.

A: Two-foot drivers are sometimes lazy and prone to letting their left feet rest on the brake pedal. Not only does this send the wrong signal to following cars, it

sends the wrong signal to the vehicle's operating systems. The engine and transmission control modules rely on signals that the brakes are being applied to make important decisions. Additionally, premature brake wear is likely. The only time I use both feet is for trail braking on the racetrack.



The cast and crew of "Game of Thrones," winners of the award for outstanding drama series, pose in the press room at the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. AP

'Game of Thrones,' 'Fleabag' take top honors at Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Game of Thrones" resurrected the Iron Throne at Sunday's Emmy ceremony, ruling as top drama on a night of surprises in which "Pose" star Billy Porter made history and the comedy series "Fleabag" led a British invasion that overturned expectations.

"This all started in the demented mind of George R.R. Martin," said "Game of Thrones" producer David Benioff, thanking the author whose novels were the basis of HBO's fantasy saga.

Porter, who stars in the FX drama set in the LGBTQ ball scene of the late 20th century, became the first openly gay man to win a best drama series acting Emmy.

"God bless you all. The category is love, you all, love. I'm so overjoyed and so overwhelmed to have lived to see this day," said an exuberant Porter, resplendent in a sparkling suit and swooping hat.

Amazon's "Fleabag," a dark comedy about a dysfunctional woman, was honored as best comedy and earned top acting honors for its British creator and star, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, and a best director trophy.

"This is getting a ridiculous," Waller-Bridge said in her third trip to the stage to collect the top trophy.

Her acting win blocked "Veep" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus from setting a record as the most-honored performer in Emmy history.

"Nooooo!" a shocked-looking Waller-Bridge said as Louis-Dreyfus smiled for the cameras. "Oh, my God, no. Thank you. I find acting really

hard and really painful. But it's all about this," she said, her acting trophy firmly in hand.

In accepting the writing award earlier, she called the Emmy recognition proof that "a dirty, pervy, messed-up woman can make it to the Emmys."

Porter, a Tony and Grammy Award winning actor, relished his groundbreaking moment, quoting the late writer James Baldwin. Porter said it took him many years to believe he has the right to exist.

"I have the right, you have the right, we all have the right," he said.

English actress Jodie Comer was honored as best drama actress for "Killing Eve." She competed with co-star Sandra Oh, who received a Golden Globe for her role and would have been the first actress of Asian descent to win an Emmy in the category.

"My mum and dad are in Liverpool (England) and I didn't invite them because I didn't think this was going to be my time. One, I'm sorry, two I love you," Comer said after saluting Oh.

Bill Hader won his second consecutive best comedy actor award for the hitman comedy "Barry."

Peter Dinklage, named best supporting actor for "Game of Thrones," set a record for most wins for the same role, four, breaking a tie with Aaron Paul of "Breaking Bad."

"I count myself so fortunate to be a member of a community that is about nothing but tolerance and diversity, because in no other place I could be standing on a stage like this," said Dinklage, a little person.

List of winners at the Primetime Emmy Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Partial list of winners at the Primetime Emmy Awards. For the complete list, visit Emmys.com :

- **Drama Series:** "Game of Thrones"
- **Comedy Series:** "Fleabag"
- **Actor, Comedy Series:** Bill Hader, "Barry"
- **Actress, Comedy Series:** Phoebe Waller-Bridge, "Fleabag"
- **Actor, Drama Series:** Billy Porter, "Pose"
- **Actress, Drama Series:** Jodie Comer, "Killing Eve"
- **Directing, Drama Series:** Jason Bateman, "Ozark"
- **Supporting Actor, Comedy Series:** Tony Shalhoub, "The Marvelous

Mrs. Maisel"

- **Supporting Actress, Comedy Series:** Alex Borstein, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"
- **Writing, Comedy Series:** Phoebe Waller-Bridge, "Fleabag"
- **Reality-Competition Program:** "RuPaul's Drag Race"
- **Limited Series:** "Chernobyl"
- **Actor, Limited Series or Movie:** Jharrel Jerome, "When They See Us"
- **Supporting Actress, Limited Series or Movie:** Patricia Arquette, "The Act"
- **Supporting Actor, Limited Series or Movie:** Ben Whishaw, "A Very Eng-

lish Scandal"

- **Actress, Limited Series or Movie:** Michelle Williams, "Fosse/Verdon."
- **Writing, Limited Series:** Craig Mazin, "Chernobyl"
- **Television Movie:** "Black Mirror: Bandersnatch"
- **Writing, Variety Series:** "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver"
- **Variety Sketch Series:** "Saturday Night Live"
- **Variety Talk Series:** "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver"
- **Supporting Actor, Drama Series:** Peter Dinklage, "Game of Thrones"
- **Supporting Actress, Drama Series:** Julia Garner, "Ozark"

"Ozark" star Julia Garner won the best supporting drama actress trophy against a field including four actresses from "Game of Thrones."

The auditorium erupted in cheers when Jharrel Jerome of "When They See Us," about the Central Park Five case, won the best actor award for a limited series movie.

"Most important, this is for the men that we know as the Exonerated Five," said Jerome, naming the five wrongly convicted men who were in the audience. They stood and saluted the actor as the crowd applauded them.

It was the only honor for the acclaimed Netflix series of the evening; "Chernobyl" won the best limited series honor.

Streaming hit new Emmy heights, powered by Amazon Prime winners "Fleabag," "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"

and a "Very English Scandal," and Netflix's "Bandersnatch (Black Mirror)," honored as best movie. But HBO again showed its strength, including with the trophies for "Chernobyl," "Barry" and John Oliver's best variety-talk win.

Michelle Williams, honored as best actress for her portrayal of dancer Gwen Verdon in FX's limited series "Fosse/Verdon," issued a call to arms for gender and ethnic equality.

She thanked the network and studio behind the project for "supporting me completely and paying me equally because they understood ... when you put value into a person, it empowers that person to get in touch with their own inherent value. And where do they put that value, they put it into their work."

"And so the next time a woman and, especially a

woman of color, because she stands to make 52 cents on the dollar compared to her white male counterpart, tells you what she needs in order to do her job, listen to her," Williams said.

Patricia Arquette won the trophy best supporting limited-series or movie actress for "The Act." She paid emotional tribute to her late trans sister, Alexis Arquette, and called for an end to prejudice against trans people, including in the workplace.

Ben Whishaw took the category's supporting actor trophy for "A Very English Scandal," admitting in charming British fashion to a hangover.

Alex Borstein and Tony Shalhoub of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" won best supporting acting awards at the ceremony, which included early and varied messages of female empowerment after the

hostless ceremony.

"I want to dedicate this to the strength of a woman, to (series creator) Amy Sherman-Palladino, to every woman on the 'Maisel' cast and crew," Borstein said, and to her mother and grandmother. Her grandmother survived because she was courageous enough to step out of a line that, Borstein intimated, would have led to her death at the hands of Nazi Germany.

"She stepped out of line. And for that, I am here and my children are here, so step out of line, ladies. Step out of line," said Borstein, who won the award last year.

Shalhoub added to his three Emmys which he earned for his signature role in "Monk."

The awards opened without a host as promised, with an early exchange pitting Ben Stiller against Bob Newhart.

"I'm still alive," Newhart told Stiller, who introduced him as part of a wax museum comedy hall of fame that included Lucille Ball and George Burns.

Kim Kardashian West and Kendall Jenner drew some mocking laughter in the audience when they presented their award after Kardashian West said their family "knows firsthand how truly compelling television comes from real people just being themselves."

An animated Homer made a brief appearance on stage until he was abruptly crushed, with Anderson of "black-ish" rushing in to, as he vowed, rescue the evening. He called "Breaking Bad" star Cranston on stage to tout the power of television from its beginning to the current golden age.

Pink and red combos, Hollywood gold on the Emmys carpet

NEW YORK (AP)—Julia Louis-Dreyfus stunned in classic Hollywood gold, Zendaya donned an emerald silk gown with a provocative corset top and Kerry Washington went for sparkly black tuxedo pants on the Emmy Awards' purple carpet, where pink-and-red combination looks and glittery chokers were plentiful.

"The biggest trend of the night was red and pink dresses," said Andrea Lavinthal, People's style and beauty director. "Mandy Moore's custom Brandon Maxwell led the pack. Her voluminous hair and dazzling diamond earrings added to the glamorous effect."

MJ Rodriguez had a ball in a magenta gown and Jodie Comer of "Killing Eve" wore sleek white, while Gwendoline Christie took her "Game of Thrones" mantle to the extreme in a medieval red cape and lion head metal medallions from Gucci Cruise 2020. Sandra Oh went for pink, posing with her hair in high curls, dressed in an off-shoulder gown.

Louis-Dreyfus finished off her look with long statement floral earrings. Washington opted for high-waisted trousers and a ruffle tuxedo blouse with the collar popped and a few buttons adventurously undone.

Angela Bassett joined Washington in pants, hers in bright red with a midriff top to match. It was a custom strapless look with an asymmetrical cape detail in the top, all from the couture collection of Antonio Grimaldi.

Michelle Williams, a brand ambassador for Louis Vuitton, wore a custom embroidered gown from the brand. Sophie Turner also wore Vuitton, a feminine structured silhou-

ette that Shadow partner and style expert Liza Suloti called "fresh and empowering," adding: "Pink satin never looked so modern."

Kendall Jenner, who presented on stage with sister Kim Kardashian West, had the internet talking about her Richard Quinn dress and "how she managed to wear Latex without breaking a sweat in the heat," Lavinthal said.

Billy Porter, meanwhile, made his typical carpet statement in a lopsided cowboy hat—one side was huge and the other not. His suit was in sparkling silver and black stripes was from Michael Kors.

Comer, who plays the assassin Villanelle, enjoyed the best of two fashion worlds. Her gown was both a halter, with a plunging neckline and high-waist tie belt, and long-sleeve with a jacket effect that skimmed the ground, courtesy of Tom Ford.

Zendaya's custom, one-shoulder asymmetric gown with a dramatic slit was Vera Wang Collection. Rodriguez smiled for the cameras in her sleeveless look with deep plunges under each arm and elegant black bows at the waist, while Christie lived out her Brienne of Tarth days on the now-concluded HBO series in her satin cream boat-neck gown and Bordeaux draping.

Viola Davis adjusted her sparkling chokers—an accessory also popular on the carpet—as she smiled for the cameras in a black-and-white gown. One half was black velvet and the other white satin. It was custom Alberta Ferretti Limited Edition, with a draped off-shoulder sleeve on the white side and no sleeve at all on the left.

NEW YORK (AP)—Michelle Williams said in her Emmy-winning speech that women need to be listened to and fairly compensated for their work.

"I see this an acknowledgement of what is possible when a woman is trusted to discern her own needs, feel safe enough to voice them and feel respected enough to be heard," she said on Sunday night.

Williams won the award for best actress in a limited series or movie for her work in "Fosse/Verdon." The eight-part FX series co-starred Sam Rockwell.

Bob Fosse was the exacting mind behind the angular movements and bowler hats of "Chicago," the brutally autobiographical "All That Jazz" and the dark punch of the film "Cabaret."

But Gwen Verdon, often overlooked, won four Tony Awards within six years in the 1950s. They were married in 1960 and separated in 1971 when Fosse's womanizing finally took its toll.

Williams credited FX and to Fox 21 Television Studios for showing her respect by giving her extra dance classes, voice lessons and bet-



'Believe her':
Michelle Williams
urges respect for women

ter wigs and false teeth when she asked, regardless of cost. She also pointed out that she was paid as much as Rockwell.

Williams infamously received just \$1,000 to reshoot scenes from 2017's "All the Money in the World," while co-star Mark Wahlberg negotiated \$1.5 million for the added scenes. Williams has said she felt paralyzed after learning of the disparity.

"The next time a woman—and especially a woman of color because she stands to make 52 cents on the dollar compared to her white male counterpart—tells you what she needs in order to do her job, listen to her. Believe her," Williams said Sunday.

"Because one day she might stand in front of you and say thank you for allowing her to succeed because of her workplace environment and not in spite of it."

Before she left the stage, Williams dedicated her win to her daughter. "Matilda, this is for you, like everything else," she said.

AP
Michelle Williams accepts the award for outstanding lead actress in a limited series or movie for "Fosse/Verdon" at the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

'When They See Us' honors real Central Park 5 at Emmys

NEW YORK (AP)—The searing TV series on the plight of the Central Park Five created a memorable Emmy moment Sunday when the five exonerated men stood and were honored at the awards show.

The four-part Netflix series explores the true story of five black and Latino teenagers from Harlem who were coerced into confessing to a

rape they didn't commit in 1989 and follows them over the course of 25 years to their eventual exoneration.

Show creator Ava DuVernay lost in the directing and writing categories but Jharrel Jerome won for best lead actor in a limited series.

"I feel like I should just be in the Bronx right now, just chilling, waiting for my mom's cooking. But I am here in front

of my inspirations," said Jerome, a New Yorker whose mother told him about this ugly chapter in city history.

He then acknowledged the Central Park Five—Yusef Salaam, Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, and Corey Wise—who had been invited.

"This is for Raymond, Yusef, Antron, Kevin, and King Corey Wise. Thank you

so much, it's an honor. It's a blessing," said Jerome.

Some of the men raised fists in the air, while others, including Wise, had tears in their eyes. Jerome played Wise in the series.

The case of the Central Park Five cut the city along racial lines from the outset, with the victim being a young white woman. It drew worldwide attention.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus comes short of making Emmy history

NEW YORK (AP)—Julia Louis-Dreyfus has come short of making Emmy history for the most overall acting wins.

The "Veep" actress Sunday lost her shot at a ninth statuette as an actress, losing the

best comedy crown to Phoebe Waller-Bridge of "Fleabag."

Louis-Dreyfus was hoping to best Cloris Leachman's haul of eight acting wins.

The "Seinfeld" alum went into the night with a career

tally of 11 and the chance to win two more for producing and acting in "Veep." But both those awards eluded her.

Her mantel includes three Emmys for producing "Veep," one for her supporting turn on

"Seinfeld" in 1996 and another for starring on "The New Adventures of Old Christine" in 2006. She then became the first actress to win the comedy acting award six times in a row for the same role.

Sister is left out of the loop when family visits her town

DEAR ABBY: I live in Atlanta, and my family lives four hours south. My brother travels here often to visit his girlfriend and their son. I never know he's in town unless another family member mentions it or he posts a photo of himself at a local landmark.

My parents and brother came here to attend my nephew's school band concert. No one mentioned that they were coming or contacted me during their visit. I learned about it after speaking with my grandmother the following day. Since then, I have spoken to my parents once briefly, and they still haven't mentioned it. Apparently, judging from the group text I just received, my brother is back in town again today for another event.

I don't want to make this about me, but I feel left out. Do I have the right to have hurt feelings?

FORGOTTEN SISTER IN GEORGIA

DEAR SISTER: You have the right to feel however you feel. But I have to wonder how close you and your brother really are, and whether you get along with the girlfriend. I suspect this may be why you are not included during these visits. Your parents may not have told you they were in town because they were asked not to or didn't want to hurt your feelings. I think it's time for a family discussion, don't you?

DEAR ABBY: I've always been very independent and haven't had many serious relationships in my 34 years of life. For the last

two years, I have been in a healthy relationship with a man who is kind, smart and makes me feel like I can be myself.

On our first anniversary, although we had never talked about marriage, he surprised me with a proposal. I didn't feel the excitement and joy that I had always pictured myself feeling when this moment finally happened to me. We haven't set a wedding date, nor am I thrilled about getting married.

I love this person and appreciate him, but I feel like I should be over-the-moon about spending forever with him. Do these blase feelings mean this isn't the right person for me, or that I'm simply not ready for the next step?

BEWILDERED MOUNTAIN GIRL

DEAR GIRL: Real life isn't like it is portrayed in the movies and on television. There is no cookie-cutter reaction to receiving a proposal. Many women would be thrilled to receive a proposal of marriage from a man who is kind, smart and with whom they can be themselves. (I am not implying that this should be you.)

My recommendation is that you two have a LONG engagement as well as premarital counseling, so you can both determine what's important to you and if you are on the same page. Frankly, these discussions should have started well before a proposal.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for five years and together with my husband for 15. I love him, and I try to look

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



attractive for him.

I recently got a shorter haircut that I thought looks nice. When my husband saw it, his reaction was, "It doesn't look bad," and, "If you like it, that's all that matters." I can't help but feel slighted and a little hurt. Am I being too sensitive?

HURT IN WASHINGTON

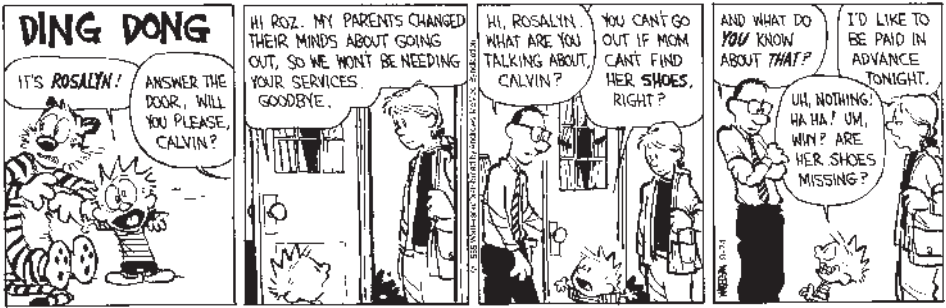
DEAR HURT: Maybe. Your husband is entitled to his reaction, and he was honest with you. Would you have preferred that he lie? If you like the new hairstyle, keep it. If you are having second thoughts, remember it's not an arm or a leg; it's only hair, and it will grow.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



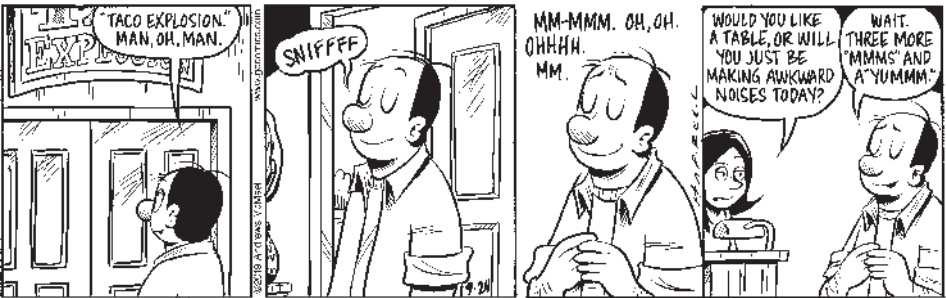
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Rosary component 5 Exist 8 IRS employees 12 Green Gables girl 13 Bam-boozle 14 Jessica of "Dark Angel" 15 Spiny critter 17 July birthstone 18 GPS suggestion 19 Proverbs 21 Tender spots 24 End-of-wk. cry 25 Nest setting 26 McGruff, most notably 30 Shoe width 31 Unites

32 Historic period 33 Tadpole 35 Blueprint 36 Recedes 37 Fetch 38 Small beard 41 Romance 42 Redact 43 Jumping game 48 Ocean motion 49 Superman foe 50 "The Man" 51 Crystal gazer

52 Devious 53 Wee

DOWN 1 "Humbug!" 2 Away from WSW 3 Moreover goal 4 Academic 5 Massage target 6 Kanga's kid 7 Attractive vessel 8 Wine 9 Advertise 10 French cleric 11 Declares 16 UFO crew 20 Darkens 21 Dance move 22 Popular cookie 23 Stagger 24 Singing groups 26 Noise-makers for bovines 27 Sandwich shop 28 Port of Algeria 29 Turf-war side 31 Agree 34 Missive 35 Business goal 37 Conk on the head 38 Understands 39 "Garfield" dog 40 Staffer 41 Like candles 44 Sushi choice 45 King, in Cannes 46 Have 47 Festive

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-24

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Spencer Treat Clark, 32; Erin Chambers, 40; Nia Vardalos, 57; Kevin Sorbo, 61.

Happy Birthday: Recognize what's going on around you. Consider what you have to do to make sure you are heading in a direction that offers peace of mind. Put your needs first, and focus on the changes that will set you free from regrets. Move forward, and prepare to do things that bring out the best in you. Your numbers are 7, 12, 23, 31, 36, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Spend more time with the people you love or those who value what you have to offer. Business trips, educational pursuits and romance are encouraged. A positive change is within reach. Don't hesitate; embrace change with open arms. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Making a change or decision based on an emotional situation isn't a good idea. Stop and consider the consequences before you let an incident consume you. Stay focused, and protect your reputation. Live up to your promises. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take pleasure in what you do, and select the people you spend time with carefully. If someone asks for too much, set him or her straight, and offer only what's fair. Maintaining balance will be essential if you want to ease stress. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Living a dream is possible if you get up and do something about reaching your goals. Letting someone stand in your way or allowing emo-

tions to stop you from doing what you should be doing will lead to regret. Make things happen. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Expand your interests, friendships and the way you do things. Updating your plans and technology, or keeping informed regarding what's new in your chosen field will help you step into a better position or improve your current lifestyle. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend more time with the people who make you feel good about yourself. Sharing memories will be a reminder of the changes you want to make moving forward. Joint ventures should be avoided, and proper diet and exercise should be taken seriously. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Learn from mistakes. Don't buy into someone else's dream or unpolished behavior. Trust in yourself and what you are capable of doing. Do what's expected of you, but don't allow anyone to take you for granted. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Recognize when someone is playing with your emotions, and know enough to step away. Concentrate on putting your time, effort and energy into something you love to do, and something extraordinary will happen. Believe in your ability to succeed. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Slow down and figure out what's best for you before you get involved in someone's plans. Take into consideration what you love to do, and turn your skills and knowledge into a money-making pursuit. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be careful not to upset or offend someone. Being sensitive to what others are going through will help you avoid the backlash that can bother your plans. Take care of financial moves that can affect your personal assets. Don't overspend on luxury items. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Size up your situation, make decisions and consider what makes you happy. Get started. The changes you make personally, financially or professionally will buy you the freedom to save more and to get the most out of what you already have. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Read the fine print. It will be easy to be taken advantage of if you are too gullible. Spend more time putting things in order and considering what's best for you. Don't get involved in something that will disrupt your life. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are eloquent, kind and accessible. You are intuitive and thoughtful.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IN A MENAGERIE Solution: 7 letters

M S R E T A W O B S E R V E S
O U H Y A E N A H E E P E T S
N C I D I F B O L L H C A O C
K R N R A E W G B T I C K E T
E I O L A I N I K R A P R S I
Y C C R L U S N A K E A A P B
E O E D J I Q T E R R E F T I
N X R Z V Y O A G B G C E N H
L E O P A R D N A I I A C A X
E O S T R T O U C R R L N H E
M Z L A I W I Y T D A A E P A
A E P G L C F S A S F P I E D
C B E S R I A F I L F Y C L R
T R A I N E R D I V E R S E E
G A R D E N M O U S E S U O H

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Aquarium, Bear, Birds, Cage, Camel, Cats, Circus, Coach, Diverse, Elephant, Exhibit, Exotic, Fairs, Falcon, Farm, Ferret, Garden, Giraffe, Herd, House, Hyena, Jungle, Leopard, Lion, Monkey, Mouse, Observe, Owls, Palace, Park, Parrot, Path, Pets, Rare, Rhinoceros, Royal, Science, Show, Snake, Study, Ticket, Tiger, Trainer, Visible, Visit, Water, Wild, Zebra, Zoo

Yesterday's Answer: Endless Love

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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(2) **Heavy Equipment Mechanics** - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Maintaining, repairing and servicing a set of heavy equipment machines or vehicles (e.g., trucks, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, cranes and compactors, completing inspections and preventive maintenance requirement, correcting vehicle deficiencies, making adjustments and alignments, and keeping records; ensure that all equipment is operating smoothly after repair and maintenance.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate
- Minimum 2 years/24 months experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Valid CNMI Driver's license
- Valid CNMI police clearance
- Current DOT physical examination

All interested applicants can send resume to: info@itscorporation.net or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4805 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website-marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) **Heavy Equipment Mechanic** \$8.73 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Operate and Inspect Machines and Heavy Equipment, Trucks and vehicles to Diagnose Defects, Clean, Lubricate, and perform other routine maintenance work on Heavy equipment, Trucks and vehicles. Repair or Overhaul Machines, Heavy Equipment, Trucks, and Vehicles then test to ensure operating efficiency. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 24 months experience as Heavy Mechanic is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) **Mason** \$7.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Mix, spread, level and smooth cement or other concrete mixes using various or power tools to construct or make repairs to various structures. Layer or install building materials such as bricks, hollow blocks, tiles or other materials require use of cement or other related mixes. Accomplish other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least Three (3) months experience as Mason is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

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ONE (1) **Carpenter** \$20.34 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Build, install and repair structures, fixtures, furniture and other items using different types of materials including wood and steel. Use various hand tools and power tools required to accomplish assigned tasks. Accomplish other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma is required. At least 12 months experience as Carpenter is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TWELVE (12) **Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver** \$8.11 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Drive a tractor-trailer combination or heavy truck. Required to unload truck. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical safety and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Secure cargo for transport using ropes, blocks, chain, binders or covers.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 1 year experience as Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net

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GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **HVAC Specialist** 8.08 to 8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Install, service, or repair heating and air conditioning systems in residences or commercial establishments. Test pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and-water solution. Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment. Repair or replace defective equipment, components, or wiring. Discuss the heating or cooling system malfunctions with users to isolate problems or to verify that repairs corrected malfunctions. Repair or service heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve efficiency, such as by changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate's Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience;
- Must have knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Kushi Kileman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

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GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Quality Control Technician** - \$9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Includes workers who collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience;
- Must have knowledge in using measuring tools, such as scales and calipers

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tin Kushi Kileman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site – marianaslabor.net.

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BOARD OF PROFESSIONS LICENSING
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Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its board meeting on **September 25, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's Conference Room at Bldg. #1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairman's Report
 - Welcoming and presenting the Executive Director for the Appraisal Subcommittee, Mr. Jim Park
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Applications for Board's Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

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Astros bag third straight AL West title



HOUSTON
(AP)—George Springer hit

a career-high three homers, Justin Verlander posted his MLB-leading 20th win and the Houston Astros clinched their third straight AL West title in grand fashion, routing the Los Angeles Angels 13-5 on Sunday.

A crowd at Minute Maid Park that was cheering from Verlander's first pitch got even louder as Springer homered three times in the first four innings. The Astros kept breaking away and improved to 102-54, a half-game ahead of the New York Yankees for the best record in the majors.

After the final out, the Astros held a bouncing group hug in the middle of the diamond and posed for a team picture. It hasn't been determined who they will face in the playoffs as they try for their second World Series championship in three years.

Springer, the MVP of the 2017 World Series, had two chances to tie the big league record for home runs in a game. He popped up with the bases loaded in the fifth and grounded out in the seventh.

Verlander (20-6) yielded six hits and two runs in five innings to reach 20 wins for the second time in his career and the first since winning the AL MVP and Cy Young Award in 2011 when he went 24-5 for Detroit. This year's AL Cy Young front-runner struck out five to leave him six strikeouts shy of becoming the 18th pitcher in MLB history to reach 3,000.

Jose Rodriguez (0-1) allowed three runs in two innings.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Paul Goldschmidt hit a tiebreaking double in the ninth inning and St. Louis clinched a playoff spot by rallying past the Cubs for its first four-game sweep at Wrigley Field in almost a century.

NL Central-leading St. Louis is qualified for the postseason for the first time since 2015 and stayed three games ahead of Milwaukee. It was the fifth consecutive win for the Cardinals, who came back for a 9-8 victory Saturday on consecutive homers by Yadier Molina and Paul DeJong against Craig Kimbrel in the ninth.

The time, Chicago manager Joe Maddon sent a dominant Yu Darvish (6-8) back to the mound for the ninth to go for his first complete game since 2014. But the result was the same in the Cubs' fifth consecutive one-run loss.

Brewers 4, Pirates 3

In Milwaukee, Eric Thames hit two home runs and the Brewers took a combined



perfect game into the seventh inning to beat Pittsburgh and match Washington atop the NL wild-card standings.

Orlando Arcia connected for the Brewers, but the shortstop also let a line drive tip off his glove with one out in the seventh for a hit that ended the perfect game bid in Milwaukee's regular season home finale.

Milwaukee has won eight of nine. Trevor Williams (7-8) took the loss for the Pirates, who lost their ninth straight.

Gio Gonzalez (3-2) picked up the win. Josh Hader got four outs for his 35th save in 41 tries.

Marlins 5, Nationals 3

In Miami, three relievers each gave up an extra-base hit in a seventh-inning meltdown, and Washington's streak of 11 consecutive wins against the Marlins ended in a loss that dropped the Nationals into a tie with Milwaukee for the top NL wild card.

Hunter Strickland and Wander Suero (6-9) allowed two runs apiece in the seventh, and Tanner Rainey gave up an RBI triple by Starlin Castro as the Marlins rallied from a 3-1 deficit to take a 5-3 lead.

The bullpen collapse came against the Nationals' favorite foils. Miami averted a three-game sweep and finished 4-15 against Washington this year.

Jeff Brigham, helped when left fielder Harold Ramirez robbed Adam Eaton of a hit, pitched a perfect ninth for his

first career save.

Dodgers 7, Rockies 4

In Los Angeles, Hyun-Jin Ryu hit a home run and pitched seven solid innings, Cody Bellinger hit a grand slam and Los Angeles reached the 100-win mark.

With the Dodgers still undecided on a starter for the NL Division Series opener Oct. 3, Ryu (13-5) made his case by giving up three runs and six hits over seven innings with no walks and eight strikeouts. His first career home run was a bonus.

The Dodgers reduced their magic number for clinching the best record in the NL to one.

Los Angeles joined Houston and the New York Yankees to give the major leagues three 100-game winners for the third straight season. Before 2017, the only years with three 100-win teams were 1942, 1977, 1998, 2002 and 2003.

Indians 10, Phillies 1

In Cleveland, rookie Oscar Mercado hit a three-run homer, Yasiel Puig drove a three-run double and the Indians moved into a tie for the second AL wild card.

Carlos Carrasco (6-7) pitched 2 2/3 scoreless innings for his longest relief appearance since his midseason cancer diagnosis, and the Indians matched the Tampa Bay Rays with six games to play. Both teams are 92-64 and two games behind Oakland, which leads the wild-card race.

Mercado's 14th home run off Vince Velasquez (7-8) broke a 1-all tie in the fifth. The Indians put the game away with a six-run seventh, which included Puig's double and a two-run homer by Framil Reyes.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 3

In New York, Luis Severino (1-0) struck out nine over five scoreless innings for his first win of the season, and the Yankees hit three home runs as they beat Toronto in their regular season home finale.

New York (102-55) moved 47 games over .500 for the first time since its record-setting 114-victory season in 1998. The AL East champions clinched home-field advantage in the AL Division Series starting Oct. 4 and are competing with Houston for the top record in the AL.

Aaron Judge hit his 26th homer this season and 14th in his last 29 games.

Twins 12, Royals 8

In Minneapolis, Nelson Cruz hit his 400th career home run, Miguel Sanó connected twice and Minnesota powered past Kansas City to remain four games ahead of Cleveland for the AL Central lead.

Kansas City joined Baltimore, Detroit and Miami with 100 losses, only the second time in major league history there have been four 100-loss teams in one season.

Sanó homered in the first and third innings.

Rangers 8, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Willie Calhoun hit two of Texas' five homers and the Rangers slowed the Athletics' wild-card push.

The A's had won 10 of 11 but couldn't stretch their two-game lead over Tampa Bay for the top AL wild card.

Texas ended a seven-game skid. Shin-Soo Choo, Elvis Andrus and Nomar Mazara all went deep. Rangers starter Lance Lynn (15-11) matched his career high with 12 strikeouts to end a five-game losing streak.

Red Sox 7, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Nathan Eovaldi (2-0) pitched six gritty innings, Christian Vazquez hit a three-run homer and Boston beat playoff-contending Tampa Bay.

Tampa Bay dropped into a tie with Cleveland for the second AL wild card, and both teams trail Oakland by two games for the top spot.

Boston designated hitter J.D. Martinez drove in two runs and is one RBI away from his third consecutive and fourth overall season of at least 35 homers and 100 RBIs.

Giants 4, Braves 1

In Atlanta, rookie Logan Webb allowed only two hits and one run in six innings, Evan Longoria drove in two runs with two hits and San Francisco beat Dallas Keuchel (8-7) and the Braves.

Braves manager Brian

Snitker, preparing the NL East champions for the playoffs, rested outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr., third baseman Josh Donaldson and second baseman Ozzie Albies. Albies had his second straight day off before reaching on a pinch-hit single in the ninth.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 4, 10 innings

In San Diego, rookie Seth Mejias-Brean hit a two-run homer with no outs in the 10th inning and the Padres beat Arizona to give interim manager Rod Barajas his first win since taking over for the fired Andy Green.

Mejias-Brean homered off Yoan Lopez (2-7) on a 1-1 pitch for his second overall and his first walkoff homer. Greg Garcia was aboard on a leadoff double.

Mets 6, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Michael Conforto homered to cap a four-run first inning and New York gave its faint playoff hopes a boost. J.D. Davis and Brandon Nimmo also connected for the Mets, who remained 4 ½ games behind Milwaukee for the second NL wild card.

New York starter Marcus Stroman walked the bases loaded with two outs and a 4-2 lead in the fifth. Brad Brach (5-4) came on to get Eugenio Suárez to pop up on the first pitch.

Tigers 6, White Sox 3

In Detroit, Willi Castro hit his first major league homer, one of four connections by the Tigers in a win over Chicago. Jeimer Candelario, Gordon Beckham and Victor Reyes also went deep.

Detroit's Matthew Boyd (9-11), who missed his last start after the death of his grandfather, gave up three runs, eight hits and two walks in five innings. Joe Jimenez pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

Orioles 2, Mariners 1

In Baltimore, Chris Davis homered off Marco Gonzales (16-12) in the seventh inning to carry the Orioles past Seattle.

Orioles left-hander John Means (11-11) allowed one run and seven hits over seven sharp innings in the penultimate start of an All-Star rookie season. He walked one and struck out four, including Domingo Santana with his final pitch.

AP

Rams stop Mayfield late, defeat Browns



CLEVELAND (AP)—Backed up to their own goal line, the Rams buckled down.

Safety John Johnson III intercepted Baker Mayfield's fourth-down pass with 27 seconds left as Los Angeles escaped with a 20-13 win Sunday night over the short-handed Cleveland Browns, who gave the defending NFC champions all they could handle.

Cooper Kupp caught two touchdown passes from Jared Goff and the Rams (3-0) stopped Mayfield on four straight plays from the 4-yard line in the final minute.

The Rams (3-0) remained unbeaten—and perfect against AFC teams in the regular season under coach Sean McVay—by barely holding back the Browns (1-2), who were missing their entire starting secondary and still took the Rams to the final snaps.

"Unbelievable," McVay said. "It was really a great job by them. I just thought to be able to regather themselves. Four straight downs and fighting through it. They locked it down big time. It was just incredible."

On the Browns' final play, Mayfield, who was under

pressure most of the night from Aaron Donald and Clay Matthews III, tried to force a pass to the right corner for Damion Ratley, but Johnson made the pick.

Chiefs 33, Ravens 28

In Kansas City, Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs won a showdown between two of the NFL's top offenses.

The Ravens made them work for it until the very end.

Mahomes threw for 374 yards and three touchdowns in another dazzling performance, Kansas City held quarterback Lamar Jackson in check most of the rain-soaked afternoon, and the Chiefs held on for a 33-28 victory over Baltimore.

Saints 33, Seahawks 27

In Seattle, Teddy Bridgewater threw two touchdown passes in his first start in place of Drew Brees, New Orleans also scored TDs on defense and special teams.

With Brees out for several weeks following surgery to repair a ligament near his right thumb, the Saints (2-1) pulled off a stunner by taking advantage of Seattle's sloppiness, handing the Seahawks their first home loss in the month of September under Pete Carroll.



Cleveland Browns strong safety Eric Murray (22) breaks up a pass to Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Brandin Cooks (12) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, in Cleveland. AP

Valdes-Scantling on a 40-yard strike on the opening drive and finished 17 of 29.

Bills 21, Bengals 17

In New York, Frank Gore scored on a 1-yard run with 1:50 remaining in rallying the Bills. Tight end Dawson Knox set up the score by bowling over two Bengals for a 49-yard gain. And cornerback Tre'Davious White sealed the win by intercepting Andy Dalton's tipped pass on third-and-5 from Buffalo's 28 with 12 seconds remaining.

The Bills squandered a 14-0 lead and were forced to rally back after the Bengals scored 17 points to take the lead on three consecutive possessions.

Colts 27, Falcons 24

In Indianapolis, Jacoby Brissett threw two touchdown passes in the first half and Marlon Mack scored on a 4-yard run in the fourth quarter. Indianapolis (2-1) has won two straight overall and seven in a row at home.

The Falcons (1-2) rallied from a 20-3 halftime deficit to get within three on Matt Ryan's 10-yard touchdown pass to Julio Jones with 4:11 to play. But the Falcons opted to kick deep and never got the ball back.

Patriots 30, Jets 14

In Massachusetts, Tom Brady threw a pair of touchdown passes and the Patriots didn't allow an offensive touchdown for the third straight week.

Sony Michel and Rex Burkhead each added a rushing touchdown for the Patriots (3-0), who won their seventh straight over the Jets and earned their ninth consecutive regular-season win at home over their AFC East rival.

It was the Patriots' first game since releasing receiver Antonio Brown.

Vikings 34, Raiders 14

In Minneapolis, NFL rushing leader Dalvin Cook cruised past the 100-yard mark for the third straight game, while Kirk Cousins rebounded from his rattled performance the week before with a turnover-free afternoon.

The defense had plenty to do with the victory, too. An interception by Harrison Smith of an overthrow by Oakland's David Carr set up the second of two touchdowns by Adam Thielen to give the Vikings a 21-0 lead early in the second quarter.

New QBs look like headliners stepping in

Oh, the moans and groans in Nawlins.

The consternation in Steel-town.

The woe is me refrains in Carolina's Queen City.

The joke's on me attitude in Jax.

And the tabloid screams in the Big Apple.

Maybe all of that dread and disgust will quiet down, at least for a week. Hey, folks, the new guys at quarterback did pretty darn well for your teams.

Teddy Bridgewater was steady in place of Drew Brees, guiding the Saints to victory in Seattle, as tough a place to win as any.

Kyle Allen, probably most famous in the NFL for once being a teammate of Kyler Murray's at Texas A&M, was a revelation in place of Cam Newton as the Panthers got their first victory of the season, in Arizona.

Gardner Minshew is making Jaguars fans wonder why he was a sixth-round draft pick, stepping in for Nick Foles and looking like a starter (and future star).

Daniel Jones, the guy who caused Giants general manager Dave Gettleman to be vilified for drafting the Duke QB sixth overall last April, looked worthy of a No. 1

overall pick. He stepped in for what the TV announcers were calling a New York legend, the benched Eli Manning, and lifted the team to last-minute victory at Tampa.

Only Mason Rudolph, replacing Ben Roethlisberger (elbow surgery) for the Steelers, didn't get a win among the newcomers. But he didn't embarrass himself at all—and had Pittsburgh in position to beat San Francisco.

Plus, in Indianapolis, this stuff isn't new for Jacoby Brissett, but his name certainly belongs high on the list of quarterbacks—eight teams already have them—who were not considered the starter last month and now are in charge of their teams.

Yes, one-quarter of the league, as injuries, ineffectiveness and in one case, a retirement (Andrew Luck), created a sea wave of change that still could turn into a tsunami.

There's no guarantees the likes of Marcus Mariota, Case Keenum, Jameis Winston or even Andy Dalton, despite his solid performances in Cincinnati's 0-3 start, will remain behind center.

And that's not even considering more injuries that often come, no matter how much NFL rules try to protect the passer.

49ers 24, Steelers 20

In Santa Clara, Jimmy Garoppolo threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Dante Pettis with 1:15 remaining and the 49ers overcame five turnovers for their first 3-0 start in 21 years.

The Niners gave the ball away four times in the first half and then lost a fumble again in the fourth quarter, but still managed to pull out the victory and spoil Mason Rudolph's first career start in place of the injured Ben Roethlisberger for the Steelers (0-3).

Rudolph threw two long touchdown passes in the second half, connecting on a 76-yarder to JuJu Smith-Schuster and a 39-yarder to Diontae Johnson.

Giants 32, Buccaneers 31

In Florida, The Daniel Jones era is off to a rousing start for the New York Giants.

The rookie quarterback threw for 336 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for two TDs, including the go-ahead score with 1:16 remaining as the Giants rallied from an 18-point halftime deficit.

Jameis Winston threw for 380 yards and put the Bucs (1-2) in position to pull out a dramatic win, but rookie Matt Gay's 34-yard field goal sailed wide right as time expired.

Texans 27, Chargers 20

In California, Deshaun Wat-

son threw for 351 yards and hit Jordan Akins with two of his three touchdown passes, and J.J. Watt had two of the Texans' five sacks of Philip Rivers.

Akins made the first two TD catches of his career and fellow tight end Darren Fells also caught a TD pass for the Texans (2-1), who rallied from a 10-point halftime deficit with 20 consecutive points on the way to their franchise's second-ever win over the Chargers (1-2).

Panthers 38, Cardinals 20

In Arizona, Kyle Allen threw for 261 yards and four touchdowns in place of the injured Cam Newton, and Christian McCaffrey ran for a 76-yard touchdown.

The 23-year-old Allen was outstanding in his second career start, making several big throws—even when there was tight coverage. He was 19 of 26, including two touchdowns to Greg Olsen and one each to Curtis Samuel and DJ Moore.

Lions 27, Eagles 24

In Philadelphia, Matthew Stafford threw a touchdown pass to Marvin Jones, Jamal Agnew returned a kickoff 100 yards for a score and the Lions held on.

The Eagles had a chance after Malcolm Jenkins blocked

Matt Prater's 46-yard field goal try with 1:53 left. Rasul Douglas returned it to the Lions 22, but an illegal block on Jenkins pushed it back to midfield.

On fourth-and-5, Darren Sproles caught a pass for a first down but got called for Philadelphia's third offensive pass interference. Carson Wentz's deep pass to J.J. Arcega-Whiteside fell incomplete with 41 seconds left.

Cowboys 31, Dolphins 6

In Texas, Dak Prescott threw two touchdown passes to Amari Cooper before running for another score, and the Cowboys pulled out of a first-half funk as huge favorites.

One of Prescott's TD tosses to Cooper came before halftime, but the Dolphins had a great chance to lead at the break as 22-point underdogs.

Packers 27, Broncos 16

In Green Bay, Aaron Rodgers threw for 235 yards and a touchdown, Aaron Jones tied a career high by running for two scores and Preston Smith matched a career high with three sacks. Green Bay got to Joe Flacco six times and forced three turnovers to lead the Packers (3-0) to the win despite being dominated in time of possession 35:34-24:26.

Rodgers found Marquez

Federer wins, as Europe retains Laver Cup title

GENEVA (AP) — After Roger Federer secured a must-win victory for Team Europe, Alexander Zverev ensured the Laver Cup was retained Sunday in a title-deciding super-tiebreaker against Milos Raonic of Team World.

Zverev fired a cross-court forehand winner to clinch a 6-4, 3-6, 10-4 victory in the decisive singles match and give the Europeans a 13-11 win in points.

After Zverev fell to the ground in triumph, he disappeared from view under a pile of celebrating teammates including Federer, Rafael Nadal and their captain Bjorn Borg.

Tennis great Rod Laver, for whom the event co-owned by Federer is named, presented the trophy to the Europeans, watched by the world team captained by John McEnroe.

"I played an unbelievable tiebreaker," Zverev said. "I'm super happy and super thankful to Roger and Rafa and the rest of the team. Without them on the bench today, I couldn't have done it."

Two hours earlier, Federer had delighted a sold-out crowd of 17,000 in his home country by beating John Isner 6-4, 7-6 (3) to set up the winner-take-all finale.

The European team also won the first two Laver Cup editions, played in 2017 in Prague and last year in Chicago.

Europe began Sunday leading 7-5 in a scoring system that gave one point for a win on Friday and two on Saturday. Victories in the doubles and each of three singles matches scored three points on Sunday.



Nadal scratched from Europe's intended lineup in both the opening doubles with Federer and the first singles due to an inflamed hand.

Isner and doubles specialist Jack Sock then beat Federer and Stefanos Tsitsipas 5-7, 6-4, 10-8.

Nadal's replacement in singles, No. 5 ranked Dominic

Thiem, was beaten 7-5, 6-7 (3), 10-5 by Taylor Fritz in a second straight match decided by the super-tiebreaker.

Fritz was a late replacement for Nick Kyrgios, who like Nadal scratched after both had played in singles and doubles on Saturday.

Strong play by the Americans on Sunday gave the world team an overall lead for the first time in the three-day competition.

Isner and Sock improved to 3-0 in Laver Cup doubles, and the 30th-ranked Fritz overcame Austria's Thiem.

"This has to be one of the biggest wins of my career," Fritz said. "I'm the kind of person that really doesn't want to let my team down."

With Europe needing to sweep the last two rubbers, Federer came through in a typically tight match against Isner with few break-point chances. "I'm thrilled that I was able

Team Europe's Roger Federer returns a ball to Team World's John Isner during their match at the Laver Cup tennis event in Geneva, Switzerland, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

to give something back to the team," Federer said. "Obviously to see Rafa on the sidelines after having to pull out with an injury, it's great camaraderie I feel."

Meanwhile, Naomi Osaka won her first singles title since the Australian Open in January by beating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 6-3 in the Toray Pan Pacific final on Sunday.

Enjoying strong support from a parochial crowd, the former No. 1-ranked Osaka dominated the match with her powerful groundstrokes and broke Pavlyuchenkova's serve twice to take the opening set in 31 minutes.

Top-seeded Osaka didn't ease off in the second set, denying the Russian any chance of getting a foothold in the match and closed out with an ace.

It is Osaka's first title in the country of her birth —she lost finals in Tokyo in 2016 and '18—and fourth in her career. She won back-to-back majors at the U.S. Open in 2018 and the Australian Open in January.

At the Korea Open in Seoul, Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic defeated fourth-seeded Magda Linette of Poland in the final.

The No. 3-seeded Muchova coasted to the title, overcoming her opponent, 6-1, 6-1



VIRGINIA WATERS, England—

After completing his FedExCup-winning season at East Lake and adding his third Player of the Year Award to his resume, Rory McIlroy's season was far from over.

Like many Europeans, the Northern Irishman had to turn his attention to the European Tour and the remaining Race to Dubai, but McIlroy eyed a different goal. After ending 2018 ranked eighth in the world, he set his sights on regaining the top spot in the ranking.

"There are always goals, they just need to be reset," McIlroy said. "I don't know if it's a realistic target to get to No. 1, but I can get closer."

McIlroy took a small step in that direction on Sunday at the BMW PGA Championship with a closing 67 that lifted him into a tie for ninth following a poor start to the week.

He will have plenty of chances to close on current world No. 1 Brooks Koepka in

McIlroy continues chase for world No. 1 ranking

the ranking with starts planned at next week's Dunhill Links Championship followed by the ZoZo Championship next month in Japan and the WGC-HSBC Champions in China before finishing the year at the European Tour's finale in Dubai.

"If someone had of told me I'd have a chance of finishing in the top-10, I would have taken it [after starting the week with a 76]," McIlroy said. "To play like this over the weekend, even to just grind it out and be here for the weekend and make the most of opportunity, proud of myself just how I hung in there."

Meanwhile, Danny Willett won a European Tour event on home soil for the first time in his career with a three-shot victory at the BMW PGA Championship.

The 31-year-old Englishman held off nearest challenger Jon Rahm in the final round.

Willett shot a 5-under 67 to finish 20 under overall and

collected his seventh European Tour title. He dropped only one shot Sunday on the par-4th 11th which could have been much worse.

"This week has been one of those fairytales to win on home soil," Willett said. "(I've) had a couple of good chances here before and the crowd weren't going to let me throw it away."

Rahm shared the overnight lead with Willett and finished second after a 2-under 70.

South Africa's Christiaan Bezuidenhout (68) was a shot further back.

After missing the cut at Wentworth last May, Willett was ranked 462nd as he struggled with a loss of form precipitated by a number of injuries. He will be just outside the top 30 when the rankings are updated on Monday.

"It doesn't get much better than this, does it?" Willett told Sky Sports. "It was a battle out there, with myself more than

anyone else, and it's nice to come through the other side."

Willett struck the first blows with birdies on the second and third before Rahm made a gain on the fourth to halve his deficit.

A birdie on the eighth restored Willett's two-shot lead but he looked set to surrender it after hitting a tree with his recovery shot following a wild drive on the 11th and then gouging his third shot out of the heather into a bunker.

The former Masters champion appeared to have hurt his right wrist in the process but, after finding the green with his fourth, he holed from 40 feet to drop just one shot.

Rahm bogeyed the 12th after misjudging his pitch to the green and seeing the ball roll back towards him, but the Ryder Cup star bounced back immediately to birdie the next.

However, after debating which club to hit on the par-three 14th, Rahm chose the wrong option to come up short of the green

in a bunker and was unable to get up and down for par.

Both players came up just short of the green in two on the par-five 17th and Willett struck the killer blow by chipping to within inches of the hole.

Rahm's chip ran five feet past and although he holed the putt for a birdie, Willett tapped in to take a two-shot lead to the 18th tee and any doubt about the result was removed when Rahm found the water short of the green with his approach.

In Mississippi, Sebastian Munoz of Colombia didn't think he was good enough for the PGA Tour unless he watched Carlos Ortiz of Mexico, his teammate at North Texas, reach the big leagues. He wasn't sure he was good enough to win until watching Joaquin Niemann of Chile win last week.

Munoz was on his own late Sunday afternoon in the Sander Farms Championship, and he delivered all the right shots.

Down to his last stroke, Munoz holed a 15-foot birdie putt for a 2-under 70 to force a playoff with Sungjae Im. And in the playoff, he let Im make the more crucial mistake. Munoz hit a chip-and-run to just under 4 feet and made the par for his first PGA Tour victory.

"Jaco's win gave me the belief I needed, the little extra belief I'm good enough, I'm here," Munoz said.

It was the first time in tour history that players from different South American countries won in successive weeks. Camilo Villegas of Colombia won the final two events of the FedEx Cup playoffs in 2008.

Munoz not only has a two-year exemption, he will start next year on Maui at the Sentry Tournament of Champions, compete at The Players Championship for the first time and then head to Augusta National for the Masters.

He knew everything that was at stake. He just tried to forget about it when he reached the 18th green knowing he needed birdie.

RNV Construction stuns Pardz Ballers

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



RNV Construction played better in the second half to pull off an 87-82 victory over the Pardz Ballers in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

The upset gave RNV win No. 4 in seven games, keeping the team in the playoff race. The loss ended Pardz's winning streak to five and dropped the squad from second to third place in the team standings, as it now holds a 7-3 slate.

After sticking close to Pardz in the first two quarters, behind by only one in the opening canto, 18-19, and 2 in the second, 33-35, RNV stole the lead in the third, 66-51. Ariel Baul, Enzo Biscocho, and Andy Mortos made 8 points apiece, teaming up in RNV's 33-16 scoring surge in the penultimate period.

The same trio still worked together in the fourth canto, while Ronald Rueda joined the cause to give RNV the 5-point victory.

Mortod led all scorers with



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Saipan Adventure's John Flores, right, drives against Max's Restaurant's Riel Paynor during their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Court.

his 29 points, while Rueda finished with 18, and Baul and Biscocho added 16 and 14, respectively.

Rocyl Ritual had 17 markers to pace Pardz, but was held to one field goal in the entire second half. Joseph Galulu was scoreless in the final half after making 13 in first.

Saipan Adventure 84, Max's Restaurant 78

In last Saturday's game, Saipan Adventure downed Max's Restaurant to match Pardz' 7-3 record.

Max's fell to a 2-7 slate and is in danger of not making it to the playoffs. Only the Top 8 teams out of the 12 squads will move into the playoff round after the regular season and Max is currently ranked No. 10 in the standings.

Saipan Adventure led from start to finish and scored at least

20 points in the first, second, and fourth periods to beat Max's.

Randy Mungcal top-scored for Saipan Adventure with his 19 points, while Ogie Herrera had 33 on a losing effort for Max's.

First Game

RNV Construction 87—Mortos 29, Rueda 18, Baul 16, Biscocho 14, Naval 4, Tagale 2, Taraya 2, Jumaquio 1.

Pardz Ballers 80—Ritual 17, Torres 16, Galulu 13, Jose 11, Romo 10, Bernardo 8,

Santos 5, Barrios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-19, 33-35, 66-51, 87-82.

Second Game

Saipan Adventure 84—Mungcal 19, Morales 16, Verdeflor 13, Salazar 9, Ocampo 8, Alipio 8. Flores 8, Maesa 2, Leomo 2.

Max's Restaurant 78—Herrera 33, Lerio 19, Salalila 11, Paynor 11, Tibayan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 25-17, 44-39, 58-57, 84-78.

Trench Tech BJJ kids classes start Thursday

Trench Tech will officially kick off its Brazilian Jiu-jitsu classes for kids only this Thursday at its gym in Garapan.

Each session will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. The lessons are open to children in the 5 to 12 age group and participants can purchase Gis at a sale price of \$90.

"We encourage parents to sign their children up and help get them off the games

and off the couch," BJJ professor and black belt Cuki Alvarez said.

Trench Tech is offering BJJ classes to help children's wellbeing, physically, mentally, and emotionally. Only experienced BJJ practitioners will hold the classes to ensure the safety of the children. Parents are also welcome to watch their children during the BJJ sessions.

For more information, contact Alvarez at 670-783-4662.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Brazilian Jiu-jitsu professor Cuki Alvarez assists kids during a BJJ class last week at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

Nuggets want extension for Beasley, Hernangomez

COLORADO—The Denver Nuggets came within one game of the Western Conference Finals last season, losing to the Portland Trail Blazers and seven games in the second round.

Nikola Jokic leads a talented young squad that's going up against a more Wide Open West this year, and it could be time for Denver to

finally stop being the team of the future and be the team of today.

However, the Nuggets still have some contract questions up in the air, and it looks like the team wants to clear those up. According to Mike Singer of the Denver Post, the Nuggets are looking to sign early extensions with both Juancho Hernangomez and Malik Beasley.

The Nuggets have until Oct. 21 to agree to early extensions. If they don't, they'll likely become restricted free agents next summer. Theoretically, interested teams could wage a bidding war with the Nuggets and drive the price up.

Denver wants to get a deal done with both players before the deadline, a league source said, rather than risk that scenario with two valuable

young players.

They've got about a month to establish parameters on what that might look like.

Beasley and Hernangomez are both players who contributed to Denver's 54-win team last season. They combined to play a whopping 151 games last year for the Nuggets, and both are young, positive VORP players early in their careers.

CARAVAN'S

From Page 28

tinued to bleed for points in the second period, while Caravan's toyed around its foes' defense or the lack of it to widen the gap further. By the end of the first half, Caravan's was way ahead, 66-27.

Despite the comfortable

lead, Caravan's showed no mercy in the second half and kept pouncing on the depleted TanHoldings.

Viray and Standish delivered the killer punches in the second half and as if those were not enough to pound TanHoldings, Salam Younis and Prince Factor also piled up points in the final 20 minutes of the game to

complete Caravan's 90-point winning margin.

Viray paced Caravan's with his 24 points, while Andrew chipped in 23, and Standish and Villarin logged 19 apiece. Quan, Younis, and Factor contributed 18, 16, and 13, respectively, while Kerwin Dayao carried the load for TanHoldings after making 31.

Caravan's 144—Viray 24, Andrew 23, Standish 19, Villarin 19, Quan 18, Younis 16, Factor 13, Rasa 6, Rotap 4, Tudela 2.

TanHoldings 54—Dayao 31, Pablo 10, Centina 8, Deleon Guerrero 3, Murillo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 36-13, 66-27, 104-37, 144-54.

U16

From Page 28

the board in the 49th minute, while MP United's lone goal came from Audrey Castro in the 74th.

In other results, Kanoa also got win No. 2 after whipping Matansa FC, 11-4.

Matansa drew first blood courtesy of Jannah Casarino's breakaway in the second minute, but it was all Kanoa after that, as Sharmaine Francisco, Paulynn Joyce, and Abigail Decena teamed up in powering their team to the easy victory.

Joyce came off the bench and delivered five goals, scor-

ing in the 27th, 30th, 33rd, 51st, and 66th minute. Francisco found her target in the 4th, 10th, 15th, and 65th minute, while Decena delivered in the 17th and 29th. Casarino registered all of Matansa's goals, as she had her last three in the second half (48th, 66th, and 68th minute).

For the final game in the division, Southern United coasted past Shirley's FC, 9-0, to bounce back from its opening week loss to TanHoldings. Shirley's absorbed its second defeat in as many games.

Mariana Castro paced Southern United with her three goals (fifth, 48th, and

67th minute), while Marinel Joy Falalimpa and Erin Frink added two apiece, and Keisha Deleon Guerrero and Natha-nette Blas registered one each. Frink scored in the 16th and 22nd minute, while Falalimpa had her pair in the 25th and 45th, and Deleon Guerrero and Blas lit up the board in the 58th and 23rd minute, respectively.

BOYS U15 MP United 3, Matansa 2

In the lone boys U15 match last Saturday, MP United edged Matansa.

Andrew Chung recorded all three goals for MP United

with the dagger logged in the 70th minute, just four minutes after Jack Paul Lizama equalized for Matansa. Chung's two other goals were delivered in the 50th and 51st minute, while Matansa nailed the first goal in the match, courtesy of John Edward Fabia's conversion in the 32 1st minute.

The Kanoa-TanHoldings tiff was the other game scheduled in Week 2, but was reset as both teams had several players who were off-island and represented the CNMI to the Group G Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Jakarta, Indonesia.

MHS

From Page 28

tivities as quickly as possible," Gross said.

He explained that they discovered the damaged gypsum boards that could fall and hurt anyone within the parameter, so they decided to close down the facility until repairs are made.

"Some of the gypsum boards that have been damaged by moisture fell into the open bleachers. Upon further investigation, we notice that there are additional gypsum boards that could potentially fall as well. The safety of all using the gymnasium is of the utmost importance, therefore I have no choice but to postpone gym activities," Gross said.

The athletic program director added that PSS is working

on immediately building appropriate scaffolding and mitigating any additional issues by removing as much of the existing gypsum as possible.

"We hope to have the gym safe enough to resume activities next week," Gross said.

The interscholastic girls high school volleyball just kicked off last Sept. 17 and had its second playing date last Thursday before the postponement. Today's matches are on hold and will be rescheduled on a later date.

In addition, games in the PSS Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League are also postponed. The basketball tournament was slated to open last Wednesday, but Gross is hopeful that they can finally start the competition by next week.



Astros bag
third straight AL
West title

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rams stop
Mayfield late,
defeat Browns

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lopsided victories in girls U16

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club, TanHoldings FC, and Southern United FC waltzed past their respective opponents in the girls U16 division of the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Caravan's Josh Andrew pulls up for an uncontested shot during their game against TanHoldings in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Caravan's records 90-point winning margin

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Caravan's demolished the hapless TanHoldings, 144-54, in the curtain-raiser of the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Up against a short-handed TanHoldings crew, which only had seven players for last weekend's game, Caravan's scored at will for the biggest winning margin in the 10-team league so far. Caravan's output is also the most made by a team early in the season, giving the squad its third victory in five games and handing Tan-

Holdings a 0-5 record.

With TanHoldings lacking manpower, the loaded roster of Caravan's had the game in the bag right in the first quarter after leading by 23 points, 36-13. Josh Andrew led Caravan's thumping of TanHoldings early in the match after scoring 10 points. Melvin Villarin added 7, while Sid Quan, Alex Standish, and Ken Viray combined for 13 more markers—the same output made by the entire TanHoldings squad. Only three players hit baskets for TanHoldings in the first quarter.

With its limited options on offense, TanHoldings con-

See CARAVAN'S on
Page 27



TanHoldings posted the widest winning margin in Week 2 of the competition after dominating MP United, 14-1, to remain unbeaten.

An early goal from Allyssya Mae Angeles right in the first minute of the game triggered the rout. Angeles went on to hit three more goals, scoring in the 48th, 54th, and 56th minute.

Rizza Relucio also drilled four goals in the lopsided victory, as she found the back of the net in the 19th, 23rd, 36th, and 48th minute. Jenny Ann Capayas and Andrei Kaithlynn Chavez chipped in two goals each with the former making her pair in the second half (62nd and 66th minute) and the latter in the first (25th and 30th). Maru Joy Aniana rounded out the scorers for TanHoldings after hitting

See U16 on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Sophia Quintos, right, stays close to Matansa FC's Jannah Casarino during the first half of their girls U16 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MHS Gym unusable, school leagues halted

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School Gymnasium has been ruled unsafe to host games, prompting the postponement of interscholastic activities this school year until repairs are made.

According to Public School System's Student Support Services athletic program director Nick Gross, upon inspection last weekend, they found out that the facility sustained additional damage on top of the ones caused by Super Typhoon Yutu last year, making

the facility unsafe for after-school sports programs.

"The MHS Gym has sustained additional damage associated with the lingering

effects of storm damage to the point that for the safety of our kids, we are postponing play for a week. We are mobilizing immediately to mitigate any

additional issues and render the gym safe for play so that we can resume after school ac-

See MHS on Page 27



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

An Agape Christian School player receives a serve from Saipan International School 2 during their game in the PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.